

H O U S E o f W I S D O M

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Email: woody@dtgministries.org; Website: <http://www.dtgministries.org>

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John 18 - Part II

The Sword

John 18:2-9: *2. And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted there with his disciples. 3. Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons. 4. Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? 5. They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. 6. As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground. 7. Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth. 8. Jesus answered, I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way: 9. That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which you gave me have I lost none.*

Judas left the group before rest of them went to the garden. How did he know where to find Jesus? It could be that they checked the upper room and found them gone. But Judas knew where Jesus would be because he went there often.

John seems to avoid repeating what is already written by others, but includes details omitted in their writings. i.e. as soon as Judas arrived with those from the high priest, he walked over and kissed Jesus (Mark 14:44) as a sign so they could take the right one. John wrote that Jesus ask, *Whom seek ye?* After they said *Jesus of Nazareth*, Jesus replied *I am he*. And *they went backward, and fell to the ground*. What happened here, and why? To assume that there was any miraculous power here is mere guessing. These men had been around Jesus or at least heard of his teachings and miracles. Because they believe in a vengeful God and a more war-lord like Messiah who would free them from Roman rule, perhaps the closeness and sudden revealing of Jesus caused them to recoil backwards, stumbling over each other.

John 18:10-11: *10. Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. 11. Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?* Jesus' comment to Peter regarding this incident can be taken literal and spiritual: **Matthew 26:52:** *Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.* We will look at this incident metaphorically.

Psalms 64:3: *Who whet their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words:* The sword is a symbol for the tongue or words spoken from the tongue. **Isaiah 49:2:** *And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me.* What a person speaks can be good or bad. **Job 34:3:** *For the ear tries words, as the mouth tastes meat.* The ear is a symbol for perception. One way to cut off a person's ear is to fill them with false teachings from the Bible. (Note: the Bible is not a symbol for a sword). **Proverbs 12:18:** *There is that speaks like the piercing of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.* The tongue of the wise speaks with words of kindness, compassion, couched with the love of God. Put up YOUR sword, and let the Sword of the Spirit speak through you. Amen.

Here are other sword references, with some that need interpretation:

Ps 57:4 My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword. (What is their fire? James 3:5-6)

Isa 49:2 And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;

Jer 20:4 For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will make thee a terror to thyself, and to all thy friends: and they shall fall by the sword of their enemies, and thine eyes shall behold it: and I will give all Judah into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall carry them captive into Babylon, and shall slay them with the sword.

-- King James - incorrectly translated

Hosea 7:16 They return, but not to the most High: they are like a deceitful bow: their princes shall fall by the sword (for) the rage of their tongue: this shall be their derision in the land of Egypt.

-- Young's Bible - correctly translated.

Hosea 7:16 They turn back - not to the Most High, They have been as a deceitful bow, Fall by sword do their princes, From the insolence of their tongue, This [is] their derision in the land of Egypt!

Mt 10:34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. (the sword of the Spirit will cur away the error)

Lu 2:34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

Mary saw and heard all that went on at the cross.

Heb 4:12 For the word ^(g3056) of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Others use this verse, as I once did, so show that the Bible is the two-edged sword. The next verse refutes this.

Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word ^(g4487) of God:

The sword is a symbol for the spoken word. There is no scripture that says it is the written word.

Isa 66:16 For by fire (Jer 23:29) and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.

Re 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shines in his strength.

Ge 3:24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

The Tree of Life is guarded by the flaming word of God.