

THE LORD IS OUR BANNER (ISAIAH 11)

It is made clear to us that there are opposing forces presently at work, in a spiritual battle. We most likely won't see the spiritual forces, in this lifetime, but we can see and feel their effects, the good and the bad. Jesus prayed to our Heavenly Father, "I do not pray for these alone [His disciples], but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me." (John 17:20-21) We acknowledge then that the battle belongs to the Lord (1 Samuel 17:47), and as the Apostle Paul said "thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:57) But then also, as we are united as one in Christ, as children of God's, that makes a huge difference in what is seen and felt within our community!

The disciple's word, that Jesus spoke of, IS the doctrine or teachings of Christ. Jesus gave His Great Commission after He had risen from the dead, to His disciples saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20) It is in Jesus' teachings, and of which the apostles expounded upon, that we are made aware of the spiritual battle. We are then supporting one side or the other, even in apathy or not committing to one or the other, as that becomes our choice. As Jesus said, "He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad." (Matthew 12:30) The Apostle Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:11-13, to "put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." That can be summed up by saying we have to put our full trust and reliance upon Christ Jesus and His Word, as children of God, He is our Lord and our Savior. Jesus tells us as much by saying, "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." (Matthew 7:24-27)

That spiritual battle is of good vs. evil as the Word of God tells us exactly that and WE ARE IN A SPIRITUAL BATTLE for the souls of man.

Praise be to God, that we are assured that in Christ Jesus, "we are MORE than conquerors through Him who loves us." (**Romans 8:37**) First and foremost, the Author of the Word, who is generally referred to as God, El or Elohim in the Hebrew. Elohim has a plural meaning but as we know from Scripture, "there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one." (**1 John 5:7**) Likewise, Jesus stated, "I and the Father are one." (**John 10:30**) With that, the Jews who were against Jesus were ready to stone Him, just as they were also when "Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." " (**John 8:58**) God is also referred to as El Elyon, God Almighty, of whom the prophet Hosea spoke of saying He is, "the LORD God [YHWH Elohim] of hosts [tsaba: which implies those who wage war or serve together, collectively] . The LORD [YHWH, Yehovah] is His memorable name." (**Hosea 12:5**) That speaks to what God told Moses to say to His people, when Moses asked God who should he say has sent him. "And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." "eh-yeh" or "haw-yah" "asher" "eh-yeh" or "haw-yah". And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' " That also speaks of the name of Christ Jesus, Jesus being the english transliteration of Iesus from the Greek, which is the transliteration of the Aramaic, Yeshua. Then, in the Hebrew His name is Yehoshua, which means "Yahweh is salvation."¹ He is who He is and HE IS our Creator and HE IS our salvation!

HE IS the Creator of all things. "In the beginning God [Elohim] created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." (**Genesis 1:1**) "Then God said, "Let there be light". (**Genesis 1:3**) "Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." (**Genesis 1:6**) "Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear". (**Genesis 1:9**) " Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth". (**Genesis 1:11**) "Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth". (**Genesis 1:14**) "Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens." (**Genesis 1:20**) "And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." (**Genesis 1:22**) "Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind". (**Genesis 1:24**) "Then God

¹ <https://biblehub.com/greek/2424.htm>

said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (**Genesis 1:26**) "Let Us make man in Our image", speaks of the Father and the Son and the Spirit was mentioned as hovering over the face of the waters. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Similarly, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it." (**John 1:1-5**) "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own [God's people, the Israelites], and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (**John 1:10-14**)

It is then, by no coincidence, that Christ Jesus, as recorded for us by the Apostle John, spoke of His many I AM statements. Jesus said, "I AM the Bread of Life" (**John 6:35**), "The Light of the World" (**John 8:12**), "The Door of the Sheep" (**John 10:7**), "The Good Shepherd", (**John 10:11**), "The Resurrection and the Life" (**John 11:25**), "The Way, the Truth, and the Life" (**John 14:6**), and "The True Vine" (**John 15:1**). HE IS the Light and the life of the world! In the Apocalypse of Christ Jesus, aka the Revelation of Christ Jesus, which God reveals to us what was and is to come in the very last of days, and of what is soon to come, we are told by Christ Jesus, "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. [as we are His workmanship (**Ephesians 2:10**)], He is referring to our obedience to His leading us in His Way] I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the **Bright and Morning Star**. And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" [He's telling us and we're telling others] And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely." (**Revelation 22:12-17**) Christ Jesus is the Light of the world, HE IS the Bright and Morning Star!

A morning star is mentioned in **Isaiah 14**, that is clearly in contrast to Christ Jesus. "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of

the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations!" While it is not ever clear in Scripture that Lucifer=Satan, and it is proposed by some Bible scholars, that Scripture is actually speaking of the ruler of Babylon, as it goes on to say, "those who see you will gaze at you, and consider you, saying: 'Is this the man [ish] who made the earth tremble...' Nevertheless, it can have a dual meaning as it also says, "how you have fallen from heaven", "shamayim": "shah-mah-yeem", light-bearer (helel), son of the morning. That is similar to what is said in **Ezekiel 28**, where God says, "You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were **created**." Then God goes on to say, "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you." (**Ezekiel 12b-13, 28:17**) The Apostle Paul, in speaking of "false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ" then says, "And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light." (**2 Corinthians 11:13-14**) As he has been cast down we are told by the Apostle Peter, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." (**1 Peter 5:8**) Yet there is but One who is called "**the Lion** of the tribe of Judah, the root of David"! (**Revelation 5:5**)

It is God alone, the Creator of all things, who is El Elyon, God Most High. **Colossians 1:16** tells us, "For by Him [Christ Jesus, the Word] all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him." The choice for us seems to be pretty simple. Choose the One who reigns over all of His creation or follow the one who has been cast down and will eventually be cast into the lake of fire (**Revelation 20:10**). Those are our two choices. We are then, based on who God IS, expected to give Him the respect, honor, and reverence that is due Him, as the Creator of all things, and that He truly "upholds all things by the Word of His power". (**Hebrews 1:3**) And as we grow in the knowledge and understanding of God and His Word, we can see more and more of how His Word is one big picture, all pieced together, of God's love and redemptive plan for mankind. That doesn't mean then for us a one-time experience of "getting saved". How beautiful that picture becomes to us, the more we get to know God and His Word, of His great love for us, as "[w]e [then] love Him because He first loved us" (**1 John 4:19**).

We are now, as children of God, living according to the New Covenant that is in Christ Jesus and we are no longer under the Mosaic law but

the "law of liberty" (**James 1:25**), the "the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus" (**Romans 8:2**). So, the foundation to our being a child of God and being "saved" is of course on Christ Jesus, the Rock, by believing on Him and receiving Him (**John 1:12-13**). We are being led by God through His Holy Spirit to believe on Jesus as being the Christ, the Savior of the world, who died on a cross for our sins, that He bore our sins upon Himself. He then died on that cross, yet **He conquered death, sin, and evil**, as He rose from the grave on the third day, of which He has made a way for us too, to overcome, that sting of death, and sin, and evil, and we are promised to have eternal life in Him! More than that, in the words of the Apostle Peter, as children of God, we are "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you **out of darkness into His marvelous light**" (**1 Peter 2:9**) Once again, a part of that process of being born-again then is in knowing God's love for us through Christ Jesus (**John 3:16-17**). We are then responding by loving Him as He has first loved us (**1 John 4:19**), and He is also then calling and leading us to **repentance**. Repentance, (metanoeo), recognizing a need for change and heeding to that need, turning to God for forgiveness of our sins, and to receive Him and His Righteousness, to receive the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ (**Romans 8:9**), so as to be, born-again, as we are turning away from continuing to sin against God and turning to Him for His Righteousness. Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—" (**John 14:15-16**) Jesus said that the whole of the law and of the prophets hangs on us loving God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and then to also love others as ourselves. (**Mark 12:30-31**) We are not following the Mosaic law of the Old Covenant, we are following the doctrine, or teaching of Jesus. As the Apostle John tells us, "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ **has both the Father and the Son.**" (**2 John 1:9**) Similarly, to what Jesus had said about keeping His commandments, the Apostle Peter, in speaking to the High Priest and the Chief Priests, who had told Peter and the other apostles to stop preaching Christ Jesus, he said, "**We ought to obey God rather than men.** [that is a heart of repentance] The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him God has exalted to His right hand to be **Prince and Savior**, to give repentance to Israel [and then to all nations according to the Great Commission] and forgiveness of sins. And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit **whom God has given to those who obey Him.**" (**Acts 5:29-32**) Just as the Apostle John said that those who obey the teachings of Christ has both the Father and the Son, after Jesus had promised the Holy Spirit to those who **obey God**, He said this, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." (**John 14:23**) It is then, as we obey Him, we experience the

blessed fellowship with God our Father and our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus, and we can experience wholeness and completeness in Christ as He is the Prince of Peace (peace=shalom/eirene, which implies we have wholeness/completeness within ourselves (the peace of God, and that's how we can love ourselves), with God, and with others. It is then that we can have great comfort in knowing that "if God is for us, who can be against us?" (**Romans 8:31**) "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." (**1 John 4:4**)

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Isaiah 11 (The Reign of Jesse's Offspring)

There shall come forth a Rod [choter: shoot, branch] from the stem [geza: trunk, stump] of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. [That is where we reside (**John 15**). In speaking of the seed of Abraham of which all the nations of the earth would be blessed, Paul tells us, "That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed." (**Romans 9:8**)] The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of **wisdom** and **understanding**, the **Spirit of counsel** and **might**, the Spirit of **knowledge** and of the **fear of the Lord**. [speaking of humble reverance toward God, for "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love." (**1 John 4:18**)] His delight is in the fear [reverance] of the Lord, and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears; but with righteousness [His Righteousness] He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity [fairness/just] for the meek of the earth ["Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." (**James 4:10**) "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time". (**1 Peter 5:6**)] He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist.

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, **who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious**. ["The Hebrew word "nes", which is the root of "nissi" primarily refers to a banner or standard that is lifted up as a signal or rallying point. It is often used in the context of military or communal gatherings, serving as a visible sign to guide or unite people. In a broader sense, it can symbolize a

divine sign or miracle, **representing God's intervention or presence.**² "They shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." (Matthew 1:23) Jesus said, **"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."** (John 14:23) It is then, as we obey Him, we experience the blessed fellowship with God our Father and our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus, to where we can have that wholeness and completeness in Christ as He is the Prince of Peace (shalom/eirene), which implies we have wholeness/completeness within ourselves (the peace of God that supasses all understanding that "will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"-**Philippians 4:7**), with God, and with others.] It shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria and Egypt, from Pathros and Cush, from Elam and Shinar, from Hamath and the islands of the sea. **He will set up a banner for the nations**, and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. Also the envy of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not harass Ephraim. [One in Christ] But they shall fly down upon the shoulder of the Philistines toward the west; Together they shall plunder the people of the East; they shall lay their hand on Edom and Moab; and the people of Ammon shall obey them. The Lord will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt; with His mighty wind He will shake His fist over the River, and strike it in the seven streams, and make men cross over dry-shod. There will be a highway for the remnant of His people [you can read about the highway of holiness in **Isaiah 35**.] who will be left from Assyria, as it was for Israel in the day that he came up from the land of Egypt.

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We are in a spiritual battle but the victory has already been won yet it is up to us to be "clothed with Christ" spiritually speaking, to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts." (**Romans 13:14**) "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity **to the obedience of Christ.**" (**2 Corinthians 10:3-5**) "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." (**1 John 4:7**) After the Israelites victory over the Amelikitites, "Moses built an altar and called its name, The-Lord-Is-My-Banner." (**Exodus 17:15**) YHWH-Nissi. That is how we can and will make a difference in this spiritual battle, through the love we have in Christ Jesus as He is the vine and we are the branches and His banner over us is love. (**Song of Solomon 2:4**)