

Dragon Spirits' Warfare Against Believers in Christ



by B. R. Hicks



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And Their Warfare Against
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Introduction

In Eternity-Past, when the LORD God created Lucifer, the Son of the Morning, He created him as the most beautiful Cherub in Heaven, endowed him with a gift of perfect wisdom, clothed him with a tenfold garment of glory, and honoured him by giving him the exalted position of covering His Holy Mountain on which His Angelic Bride dwelled.

However, Lucifer did not guard and protect God's Angelic Bride and lead the Heavenly Hosts in holy worship and praise to the LORD God as he had been created to do. Instead, he became so enamored with his own beauty that he eventually led a third of the Heavenly Hosts to follow him in sinful, iniquitous rebellion against their Creator. Because God is Righteous and Holy, He was left with no choice but to judge the Cherub for his sin and cast him out of Heaven.

In his fallen state, Lucifer's stature became known as Satan, Devil, Serpent, and Dragon. Lucifer uses his fallen sinful stature to war against God's Person, God's Truth (the Christ), and God's creation. He uses all four realms of his fallen stature to war around the four points of the Cross of the Spiritual Stature of Jesus Christ. For example, Lucifer uses his Satanic form to war against believers when they are in the foot-realm or the Courtyard of the Spiritual Stature of Jesus Christ. As Satan, fallen Lucifer appears as an angel of light to stand against the Truth that the LORD God is the one and only True God. Thus, Satan deceives people into worshipping him also as a god.

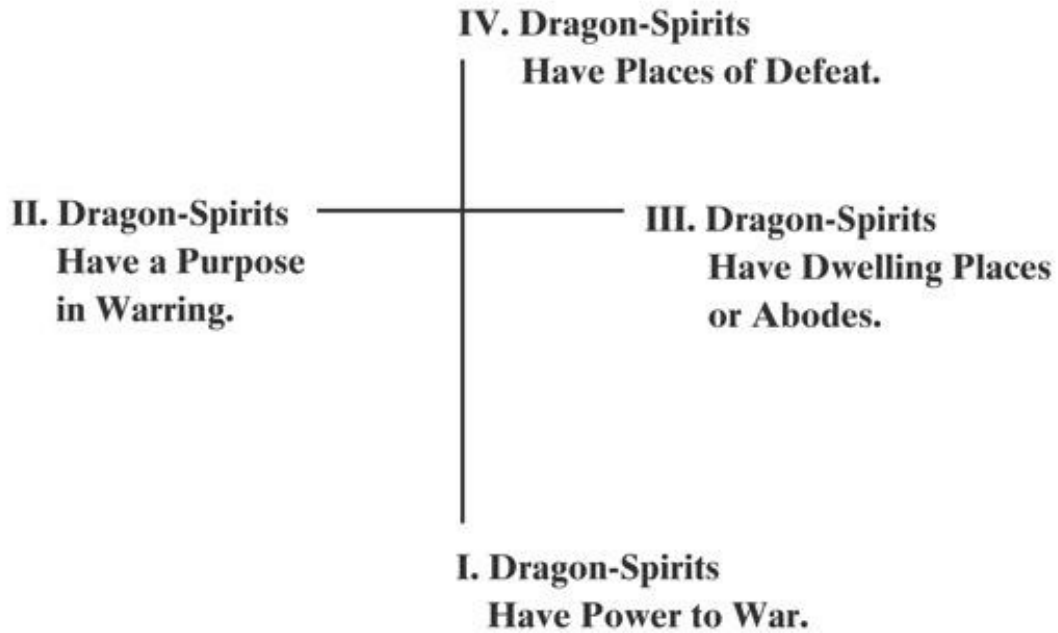
Believers who grow to the shoulder-realm, the equivalent of the Holy Place in the Spiritual Stature of Jesus Christ, encounter the Devil and Serpent forms of fallen Lucifer's warfare. As a roaring lion, the Devil goes forth to destroy believers' spiritual life by devouring the Living Truth out of their hearts. The Serpent uses his seven heads (affliction, death, blasphemy, rebellion, ignorance, enchantment, and deceit) to twist and pervert the Truth so that he can join it to his darkness and death.

Lucifer does not surrender simply because he has been defeated in his Satan, Devil, and Serpent forms. Believers who ascend by growth into the head-realm, the equivalent of the Holy of Holies of the Spiritual Stature of Jesus Christ, must fight his Dragon form. The Dragon's strategies utilize fallen Lucifer's corrupt, head-realm knowledge and power.

Sometimes, the Dragon himself comes to war against a child of God. However, since the Dragon is not an omnipresent being, he cannot be fighting, personally, in more than one place at a time. So in order to carry on his perpetual warfare against God and God's children, the Dragon has equipped a trained army of dragon-spirits to go forth at his command to war against God's children who have attained spiritual maturity in the Stature of Jesus Christ.

Very basically, dragon-spirits have the same wicked nature as their leader, the Dragon. Nevertheless, the Word of God has revealed a specific Stature of Truth about dragon-spirits.

The Stature of Dragon-Spirits' Warfare



Since dragon-spirits fight in the head-realm, the more we understand about their power, the purpose of their warfare, their dwelling places in which they carry out their head-realm warfare, and the places of their defeat, the greater will be our victory, and the greater will be the glorious praise that will ascend to the LORD Gods' Name.

May the LORD Jesus Christ bless this study to the upbuilding of His Holy Kingdom of Light and Truth.

— The Author

Dragon-Spirits And Their Warfare Against Believers In Christ

Lucifer, the Dragon, takes great delight in marshalling his powerful army of dragon-spirits and sending them forth to war against God's saints. He hopes, by defeating the individual child of God, that he eventually can undermine and overthrow God's entire Kingdom.

Spiritual babes have no power to defeat Lucifer's army of dragon-spirits. A person must be a spiritually mature prayer warrior in the LORD's Army in order to be victorious when he encounters the Dragon's head-realm warfare, fought through his hosts of dragon-spirits. Through studying the Revealed Word of God, believers gain the head-realm Wisdom, Understanding, and Knowledge they need in order to overcome the Dragon. Hence, the following study has been written especially to help mature believers in their spiritual warfare in head-realm prayer.

I. Dragon-Spirits Have Power to War.

The Dragon himself imparts power to his army of dragon-spirits. They go forth, then, in the power and might of their wicked leader to war against God's children. Dragon-spirits manifest their wicked power through their poison and their wailing.

A. Dragon-Spirits Have Power to Poison.

The first way that dragon-spirits war against the Stature of Truth in the Bridegroom is by infusing their powerful poison of fury into the minds of God's creatures.

Their wine is the poison of dragons, and the cruel venom of asps (Deuteronomy 32:33).

The Hebrew word for *poison* is *khay-maw*, which means heat, anger, hot displeasure, rage, burning, wrath, indignation, fever.

When God abandoned Israel to her enemies, she had no power to war against the poison of fury which dragon-spirits infused into the minds of her enemies. The head-realm poison of fury is compared with wine because, like wine, it inflames the mind, renders it incapable of balanced reasoning, and stirs the emotions to war.

From the beginning of Israel's spiritual walk with God, the Name of the LORD God had been her strong Tower and Rock. And as long as Israel was joined in Oneness of Spiritual Marriage Relationship with the LORD God, the battle was between the LORD God and the fiery, fierce dragon-spirits in her enemies.



Israel was not subjugated as long as she maintained her unity with the LORD God. But when she foolishly forsook the LORD God as her Rock of Strength and Support, she was left to fight the fiery, furious, poisonous untruths of dragon-spirits in her enemies.

When Israel had to fight in her own finite strength, she soon was overcome and conquered. First, dragon-spirits' poisonous untruths of idolatry and adultery overcame Israel from within. Second, poisonous dragon-spirits fought by using Israel's enemies, and so they conquered her from without. Third, poisonous dragon-spirits within Israel's enemies persecuted and mocked Israel when God judged her for her sin.

Israel's enemies were drunk with sensual delight on the bitter fury and cruel venom of Lucifer's army of dragons and asps. When people allow their pleasure in this life to degenerate into cruel, pitiless gloating over the misfortune, punishment, and judgment of others, so that it becomes the guiding principle of their lives, they have completely forgotten their own end when they, too, will have to give an account before God.

Using the power of their poison, dragon-spirits fight furiously to lead God's people into sin which, in turn, leads them into separation from God's Presence and Blessing. Then, they mock and laugh as the child of God falls in defeat and despair.

Apart from the LORD Jesus Christ, the Eternal Rock, mortal man does not possess the power needed to overcome and conquer the poison of heat, anger, hot displeasure, rage, wrath, indignation, and fever which dragon-spirits use in their warfare against the LORD's Truth.

Dragon-spirits war with heat, causing people to burn with uncontrollable rage which cannot be conquered by doctors and pills. They cause people to burn with unrestrained lust. The burning fire that dragon-spirits stir up within the human soul is unquenchable, apart from the overcoming Waters of Life out of the Rock, Jesus Christ.

Before Lucifer was cast out of Heaven, he stole some of God's everlasting Fire. Now, he fills man with his fever and fire which can be quenched only by the LORD God Himself.

When God calls someone to walk in His Way of Truth, dragon-spirits in Lucifer's army come against this person by stirring up fury and the fire of hate in others' hearts. Then, people who are not personally acquainted with this person will hate him with a passion or fervour, an intense heat. The fiery hatred caused by the poison of dragon-spirits cannot be a rational, normal emotion because one person has to know another person and have contact with him in order to have a reason to hate him.

I have known people who, after they have become believers in Christ and have begun walking in God's Truth, have asked me to forgive them for hating me. They have apologized, saying, "Before I knew you, whenever your name was mentioned, something would come down over me, and I would feel the worst rage and wrath come up in my heart against you." Why did they feel hatred for me when I had done nothing to them? They were experiencing the poisonous warfare of dragon-spirits rising up against the Truth in me.

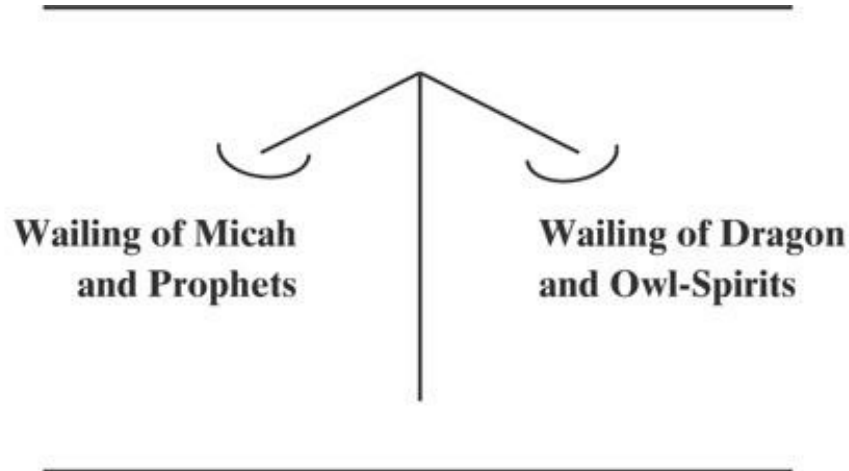
B. Dragon-Spirits Have Power in Wailing.

The second way dragon-spirits war against the Stature of Truth in the Bridegroom is by wailing and complaining against the Truth.

Therefore I will wail and howl, I will go stripped and naked: **I will make a wailing like the dragons**, and mourning as the owls (Micah 1:8).

The Hebrew root word for *wailing* is *saw-fad*, meaning to smite, to tear the hair and beat the breast in grief, to mourn, lament, bemoan, weep, deplore, to be melancholy.

The Prophet Micah made a comparison between the wailing of God's Prophets and the wailing of the dragon and owl-spirits in Lucifer's army.



Hungry animals screech, roar, and scream in the night season in order to terrorize their victims. Natural creatures know by instinct that their prey can be taken easily if they first are paralyzed with fear. Dragon-spirits possess the same class of knowledge in the spiritual realm. They wail, mourn, scream, and howl during man's spiritual night seasons in order to terrorize and paralyze the soul and take it captive.

The LORD God allowed the Prophet Micah to imitate the wails, howls, roars, and screams of dragon-spirits in order to give Israel a prophetic demonstration of how it would be when she became the prey of dragon-spirits. When Israel forsook God and went into idolatrous and adulterous worship, God allowed dragon-spirits to roar, scream, and wail against her. Dragon-spirits worked through Israel's enemies to smash and contemptuously conquer her.

If believers do not allow God's Holy Spirit to wail, howl, and roar through them in prayer to God and if they do not separate themselves from their idolatry and adultery, God will allow their souls to be terrorized by Lucifer's dragon-spirits' howling, roaring, screaming, and wailing.

The Luciferous army of dragon-spirits wail, complain, and cry in poisonous rage and anger against God's children. If believers keep themselves sanctified and clean as they walk with God, dragon-spirits can find no place to infuse their poison. Therefore, their wailing and howling will not affect them. However, if a person is not going on for God, the poisonous rage, wrath, anger, and hot displeasure of the wailing dragon-spirits will influence him and cause him to be filled with frightful apprehension and alarm.

Since dragon-spirits war over the heights of Truth in Christ, we know that this level of spiritual warfare is not for babes in Christ. It belongs to those who are fully mature in the Stature of Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom.

When God has chosen a person to be in Christ's Bride, he must become a special prayer warrior against dragon-spirits of untruth. He especially needs to run quickly and faithfully with God. If we are running in the race for the Prize, the New City, the New Jerusalem, or the Bride of Jesus Christ, we can expect to encounter warfare with dragon-spirits of untruth, for they fight against the full Stature of Truth of Jesus Christ. But if we learn about our enemy, we can take victory over him through Christ Jesus.

Any time we experience defeat in our spiritual warfare, it is because we have not sanctified ourselves and surrendered ourselves thoroughly, in the depths of our beings, to the Will of God. Dragon-spirits of untruth do not have a way of entrance into us when we are completely surrendered to the Will of God. This explains why we sometimes cannot war in prayer. Unless we are walking up in a place of cleanliness and holiness in Christ Jesus, we are not able to fight dragon-spirits' head-realm warfare against the Truth.

II. Dragon-Spirits Have a Purpose in Warring.

In his great warfare against the Truth, Lucifer's intention or design always is to accuse God's Nature. The Dragon likes to drag God, as though He were a criminal, before the jury of man's proud, corrupt reasoning and accuse God of being unfair and unjust in the governing and management of the affairs, circumstances, and situations of one's life.

The Dragon's purpose in using his dragon-spirits to war against the Truth is to constrain man's natural, darkened, corrupt reasoning and to complain and find fault with God's management of his life or someone else's life. The Dragon wants to see man's reasoning act as a judicial tribunal to punish God as a criminal and cast His Will, His Rule, and His Reign out of his life.

However, the Truth is that God is Just and Holy and the rightful, sovereign Ruler of His creation. The Truth is that God makes all things work together for good to those who love Him. The Truth is that God remains the same before man sins, during the time man is sinning, and after man has repented of his sin. Yet, Lucifer, the Dragon, and mankind's proud reasoning drag God as a criminal before their court of injustice.

The root of the matter of the great warfare that the Dragon wages against God and man's soul is his claim that God is unjust, unfair, and unholy in His management and governing of His creation. When our human will is filled with rebellion against suffering in the low, humble place (which is necessary for the furtherance of our moral development in the Humility of Christ Jesus), we, like Job, are easy prey for dragon-spirits to file their complaints and faultfindings against God in our hearts and minds. The inevitable warfare always is based on this cause: the Truth of God's Nature versus the untruth of Lucifer's nature.

A. Dragon-Spirits Accuse God's Nature.

The first purpose of the warfare which Lucifer fights through his army of dragon-spirits is to accuse and complain about God's Holy Nature.

He hath cast me into the mire, and I am become like dust and ashes. I cry unto thee, and thou dost not hear me: I stand up, and thou regardest me *not*. **Thou art become cruel to me: with thy strong hand thou opposest thyself against me.** Thou liftest me up to the wind; thou causest me to ride *upon it*, and dissolvest my substance. **For I know that thou wilt bring me to death,** and to the house appointed for all living. Howbeit he will not stretch out *his* hand to the grave, though they cry in his destruction. Did not I weep for him that was in trouble? was *not* my soul grieved for the poor? **When I looked for good, then evil came unto me: and when I waited for light, there came darkness.** My bowels boiled, and rested not: **the days of affliction prevented me.** I went mourning without the sun: I stood up, *and* I cried in the congregation. **I am a brother to dragons, and a companion to owls** (Job 30:19-29).

Job became spiritually proud about God's exalted blessings in his life; consequently, he had to be humiliated for the furtherance of his moral development in humility. Job accused and complained against God for plunging him into the mire of his hideous affliction. He accused God of maintaining a stony silence in return for his dragon-wailing and mourning. He accused God's Holy Nature of hating him and persecuting him by inflicting new punishment on him every day. Job charged God with lifting him up, as a leaf is lifted in the wind, and then flinging him to the ground a broken man. He accused God of wanting to dissolve him in the stormy whirlwind of his afflictions. None of Job's accusations against God were true. The Truth was that God wanted only to dissolve Job's pride.

While Job was being afflicted, Lucifer's dragon-spirits filled him with frightful hopelessness and helplessness. Job had learned to serve God in good circumstances and in the Light, but he had not learned to serve God in evil circumstances and in darkness. Blind Job was unaware that God was furthering his moral development, trying to work His Humility within Job.

Job did not find fault with God when *other people* were suffering. He, being blessed, was happy to share his substance with them. Yet, when Job started suffering as he had seen others suffer, he found his inwards boiling out complaints against God's holy Management and Government of his life. Soon, Job started mourning, howling, wailing, as do the dragon and owl-spirits, against God's Holy Nature and His just and righteous Management of the affairs of mankind.

The Dragon's and his army of dragon-spirits' warfare should not be taken lightly. When fallen Lucifer comes to us in his Dragon-form or through one of his dragon-spirits, we need to recognize him in order to resist him. Otherwise, his words of untruth will get us into terrible trouble in our reasoning.

In the story of *Pilgrim's Progress*, Christian had to pass through the valley of humiliation. Near the end of the

valley, devils came to whisper in his ears all kinds of blasphemous things against God. They tormented poor Christian, making him think that he was the one thinking those awful things.

A person can be talking to God; then, like the boom of an exploding bomb, the Dragon or one of his dragon-spirits will come to make the person say something he was not planning to say. The Dragon tries to twist a person's tongue so that he says something that was not in his conscious mind. When this happens to us, we have to resist Lucifer in the Name and Nature of Christ Jesus.

In his affliction, Job poured out his wailing complaints against God because of what God had done to him. He accused God of putting him down in the low place of humiliation, without a good cause, just to satisfy His own evil pleasure. Job threw a tantrum, just as a spoiled child would. He accused God of being cruel to him and not regarding him. In reality, God was dissolving his fleshly substance of temporal pride in order to give him the Eternal Substance of His Humility.

Through Job's uncrucified flesh, he became a "brother" to dragon and owl-spirits. Even as believers in Christ, we, too, have been guilty of the same thing. We have allowed our flesh to make us companions of dragon and owl-spirits, and we have spent sleepless nights with our bowels boiling and complaining against God's Goodness.

We must be conscientious about dealing with our fleshly attitudes and dispositions. Our uncrucified flesh causes us to become a brother to dragon-spirits. The purpose of dragon-spirits is to accuse the Nature of God!

God wants us to humble ourselves under His Government and Management of our lives. Remember, this is the *safe* route, even when we cannot understand. Regardless of what position God puts us in or what He does with us, we should humble ourselves before Him. True humility will keep us from becoming a companion to dragon-spirits, whose purpose is to accuse God's Nature. An accusing spirit against God comes from the dragon and owl-spirits who esteem themselves wiser than God in the rule and management of the creation.

Dragon-spirits come to strike us after we have redeemed an hour of time in the Word and prayer, even though that hour spent in the Spirit and Word has enlarged our Spiritual Man. The Dragon's untrue doctrine says that if we have spent time with God in the Word and prayer we will not experience sufferings and trials. Therefore, when sufferings and trials come after we have been faithful in the Word and prayer, we are supposed to have a just reason (according to dragon-spirits) for complaining and wailing against God!

The LORD allows the Dragon to send his dragon-spirits to test us in order to see if we will falsely accuse Him. God has a pure purpose in permitting His children to experience Dragon warfare; He intends for it to be a blessing in spiritual growth. But, the Dragon's purpose in coming himself or in sending his army of dragon-spirits is to stir up our flesh so that we will accuse God by saying, "What good did it do to pray and study? I spent a whole hour in the Word and prayer, and what good did it do?" That is an evil accusation against God. In the first place, it is a lie to say that it does no good to seek God in the Word and prayer. It *does* do good because we purchase that hour of mortal time for Eternity. We never will lose the time we spend seeking God in the Word and prayer because, through the Eternal Word and Spirit of God, we wrap temporal time in a garment of immortality. When we meet Jesus Christ in Eternity, we will have every precious hour we have spent seeking Him in this life.

In Job's first test of losing his children and his possessions, he said, "...the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away: blessed be the name of the LORD" (Job 1:21). Job maintained the victory when he lost his children and possessions. In the midst of loss, Job kept a better spirit than Jonah did when he was faced with loss.

Jonah became angry when God withdrew His destructive Judgment against Nineveh. When the wicked city repented, God withdrew His destructive Judgment, but Jonah became rebelliously angry because he lost the opportunity to see God destroy the city. Thus, Jonah also became a companion of wailing dragon-spirits.

When God allowed Satan to smite Job, Job found himself outside the camp, sitting on the dunghill in the place of lepers. Then, he became a brother of dragon-spirits and a companion of owl-spirits. While Job was in this condition, Elihu came to minister as a mediator between God and Job. Elihu put Job back into contact with God by helping Job to see the Truth about God's Holy Nature and Just Government. He also helped Job to see his own unholy nature and unjust complaints against God.

When God directs circumstances to go contrary to the way we want them to go, we need to humble ourselves and acknowledge the Truth that God's Nature is Holy and Just and that God does not make mistakes, although for the time being we may not be able to see His Wisdom.

We must walk with God and give him a chance to prove to us that He is right in the way He governs and manages our life. We cannot know His righteous Government by looking at one or two colours of the threads of events in our lives. We must wait on the LORD until, in His Master Plan, He has woven all the colourful threads of circumstances and situations of our lives upon the fabric of our hearts; then, the Images of Christ and His Cross begin to appear in the design.

God is the only One Who knows the colours of threads needed to complete the design of His Master Plan. We stand and judge out of our present, finite eyesight, but God judges out of His infinite, omnipresent Eyesight. Because we do not know God's Master Plan for today or tomorrow, we are incapable of judging righteously.

I have observed this Principle at work in my own life and have marveled at God's Grace and Goodness. I am so glad, now, that God did not listen to me and give me the things I once thought I wanted. I can see God's marvelous Wisdom in the way He has worked in my life. However, I did not see this Wisdom until after I had climbed further up the hill of faith and looked back over the way I had come. Then, I saw the pitfalls on the right and on the left, and I saw what could have happened if God had not been leading and guiding me every step of the way.

B. Dragon-Spirits Snuff Up the Wind or Breath of God's Spirit.

The second purpose for dragon-spirits' warfare is this: the Dragon and his army of dragon-spirits fight against the Truth of the Stature of the Bridegroom to snuff up the Wind of God's Spirit, thus leaving their victims in a state of hopelessness.

And the wild asses did stand in the high places, **they snuffed up the wind like dragons**; their eyes did fail, because *there was no grass* (Jeremiah 14:6).

Israel had proceeded in her iniquity against God; consequently, God proceeded to punish and judge Israel by sending a drought.

The Prophet Jeremiah wrote a melancholy description of the conditions that came upon creation as a result of God's chastisement. The earth was so hot, dry, and parched that the wild asses gasped for air, in hopeless despair.

In the spiritual realm, dragon-spirits snuffed up the Breath of God's Spirit. When God's people are in the midst of fiery testings, trials, and spiritual drought, dragon-spirits come to snuff up the Breath of God's Hope and Expectations from them, leaving them in a state of hopeless despair.

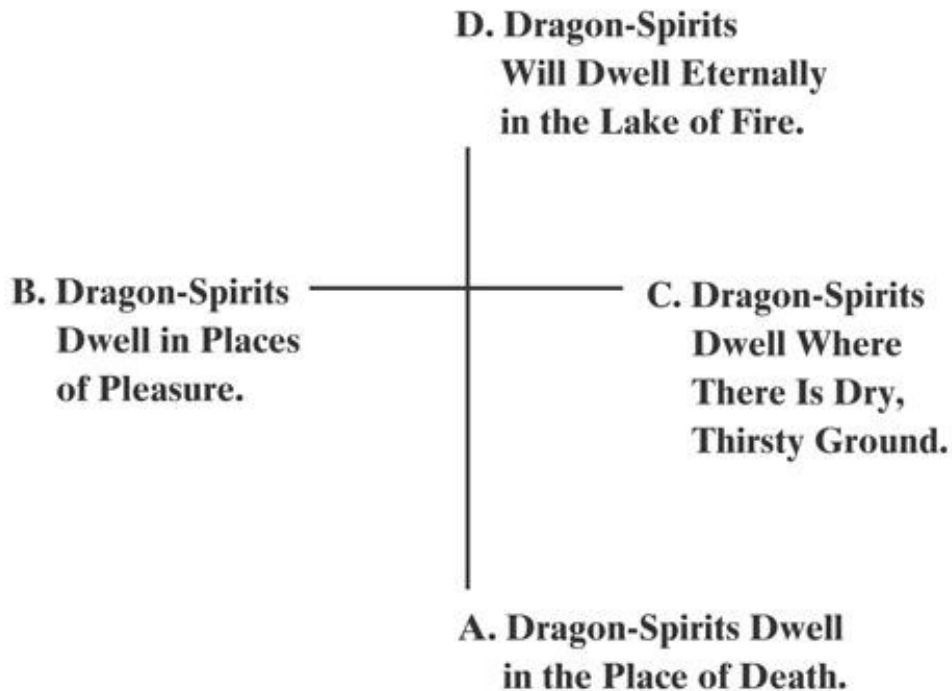
For example, we can be having a wonderful time in intercessory prayer; then, suddenly, we feel the flow of God's Breath disappear. Something has come along to swallow up the Breath of Holy Ghost Intercession. An experience such as this leaves us wondering: "Where did the Spirit of Intercession go? What did I do wrong? It went so fast."

Dragon-spirits in Lucifer's army come to snuff up the Wind of God's Spirit, just as they snuff away the Word of God. When the Seed of God's Word falls on the wayside soil of our hearts, the Devil's birds come and gobble it up before it has a chance to take root downward and bear fruit upward. Likewise, dragon-spirits fight us in prayer to snuff up the very Breath of prayer so that we stop praying. Once we understand what is happening, we can resist the dragon-spirits, rebuke them, put our minds on God again, take up praying where we left off, and go on with the Spirit's Breath of Intercession.

The greatest movement of air and the freshest air is found outdoors, in the high place. When a person stands on a natural mountain, he feels the exhilarating wind blowing around him, and he snuffs up the air with great delight. Likewise, in the spiritual realm, when a child of God climbs into high places in prayer, dragon-spirits are there to fight, trying to rob him of the privilege of enjoying the delightful Breath of God's Spirit. When a person stands in high places in God to war in prayer, the Dragon either comes himself or sends one of his dragon-spirits to snuff up every Breath of prayer from him, if he is not watching and guarding against the Dragon's plans to snuff out the Breath of the Spirit of prayer. Understanding is half the battle. If we understand what the battle is about — who is fighting, and how they are fighting — it is easy to take the victory in Christ Jesus.

III. Dragon-Spirits Have Dwelling Places or Abodes.

God's Word reveals that dragon-spirits have four places of abode. The first three points on the following Stature of Truth show the kinds of places in which dragon-spirits love to dwell; the fourth point discloses the place that God has chosen for their punishment.



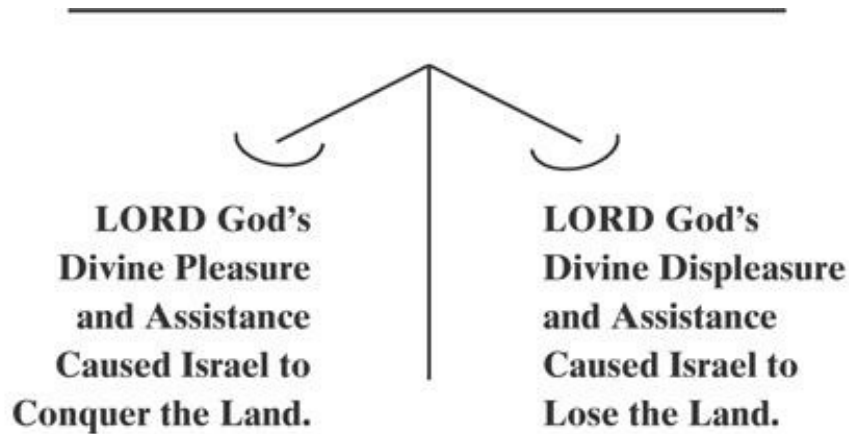
A. Dragon-Spirits Dwell in the Place of Death.

Dragon-Spirits love to dwell in the place of Death, in both the natural and spiritual realms.

Though thou hast sore broken us **in the place of dragons, and covered us with the shadow of death** (Psalm 44:19).

Psalm forty-four is a *Maschil* Psalm. The Hebrew word for *Maschil* means instruction. This Psalm, like the other *Maschil* Psalms, carries special instructions for the Bride.

Through His divine pleasure and assistance, God instructed Israel in how to drive out the enemies in Canaan's Land and how to conquer the land. Furthermore, after Israel had gone whoring after the false doctrines and idolatrous images of her heathen neighbours, God, through His divine pleasure and assistance, caused Israel to lose Canaan's Land.



Israel entered Canaan's Land as an invincible nation, armed with the Law of the *Torah*. Through the LORD God's divine pleasure and assistance, Israel triumphed over all her enemies. However, in due season, because Israel abandoned her divine weapon, the *Torah*, the LORD God's divine displeasure and assistance caused Israel to suffer bitter defeat at her enemies' hands.

There are two places in which we can live: *with* God in the place of Life; or *without* God in the place of death, where dragon-spirits love to dwell. If we do not like the place of Life and God's *Torah*, God, in His displeasure, will assist us to live in the place of death, the state of spiritual alienation from God, the state of being spiritually dead, or the place of eternal separation from God.

When Israel forsook God and His *Torah*, the abode of the Dragon's death became her abode. God broke, crushed, and defeated Israel in the place or abode of dragon-spirits. The same Principle operates today. When a person forsakes God and God's Will in his life, he experiences a feeling of continual defeat because he is living in the abode of dragon-spirits — the place of desolation and defeat.

Dragon-spirits abide in the place of defeat and death, deceiving poor, deluded wanderers who forsake God and also end up in the dragon-spirits' abode. When poor souls find themselves in the place of defeat and death, they look to the creatures round about them, seeking someone to relieve them of their continual feelings of death and defeat. Instead, they should return to the LORD God's Will in their lives. Dragon-spirits' place of abode is filled with men who are as vicious, cruel, fierce, and merciless as dragon-spirits.

This dismal place is covered with the shadow of death. The inhabitants of this place have chosen to forsake God and his *Torah*; consequently, they are filled with deep melancholy, apprehensiveness, and their souls are clothed with the robe of obscurity. They feel as though they are dead while they are living, and that no one else knows or cares whether they are dead or alive.

To live in God's Will in the place of Life and to be filled with God's divine pleasure and clothed with His powerful assistance is the only way to find gratification and help to conquer all enemies who rise up against us!

The more we give ourselves to God, the more He cleans out the River of Deceit which flows within our human will, producing the Tree of Death. Dragon-spirits make their abode in the place of death. They dwell even in places of natural death. The Book of Mark, chapter five, tells of a mentally disturbed man who dwelt among the tombs. The man chose to live in the place of death because he had dragon-spirits in him, and dragon-spirits feel comfortable in the presence of death.

When a person dies, there is a strange, weird feeling around him. We do not experience the same feelings as when the person was alive. The reason is that dragon-spirits come to abide in the place of death. Because of the defiling presence of evil dragon-spirits who abide in the place of death, God commanded in His Word that people sanctify themselves when they come in contact with a dead person. (When I attend funerals, I always plead the precious Blood of Jesus Christ as a protective covering for my soul.)

Dragon-spirits follow after death. If we touch a dead person, it is not just the death of the mortal bodies we touch; we also touch dragon-spirits that follow death.

When God prophesied that He was going to destroy a place, He promised that dragon-spirits would dwell there.

And **Hazor shall be a dwelling for dragons**, and a desolation for ever: there shall no man abide there, nor *any* son of man dwell in it (Jeremiah 49:33).

Hazor, a city with a long history and a famous reputation, was burnt by Joshua when he possessed the land. Rebuilt by Jabin when he oppressed Israel, Hazor later was fortified by Solomon as one of his strong points of defense. Nevertheless, when the foul, black stream of sin runs great enough through a city, as it did in Hazor, God severs it from His keeping power and gives it over to death and desolation so that it becomes a special place of abode for dragon-spirits. If dragon-spirits converge on the place of natural death, then they certainly converge on the place of spiritual death.

The River of Deceit that flows down the middle of the human will creates another place for dragon-spirits to dwell in because the Tree of Death grows on either side of the River of Deceit. The River of Deceit *feeds* the place of death. If we drink out of the River of Deceit in our own will, instead of drinking out of the River of Truth, we can be sure that the Tree of Death will grow and that dragon-spirits will come to abide in the Tree of Death.

Dragon-spirits evidence their presence in these ways: constant depression; constant feelings of fierce anger when there is no particular reason to be angry; a continual feeling of confusion, which keeps one from deciding what he wants to do; the way a person continually makes wrong decisions; continually putting the blame for one's multitude of failures on friends, relatives, the Pastor, or economical situations. These are a few evidences of the elongated dissatisfactions that dragon-spirits cause when they have access to the Tree of Death in the human will.

Jesus Christ shed His own precious Blood to cleanse us from the River of Deceit in our will which we inherited from the Serpent in the Garden of Eden. If we allow it, the Fire of the Spirit of Truth will consume the Tree of Death (the knowledge of disobedience), which we inherited from Adam-male and Adam-female in the Garden of Eden. Thus, dragon-spirits will not dwell in our will because they will not dwell in places where the Blood of Christ and the Fire of the Spirit of Truth are.

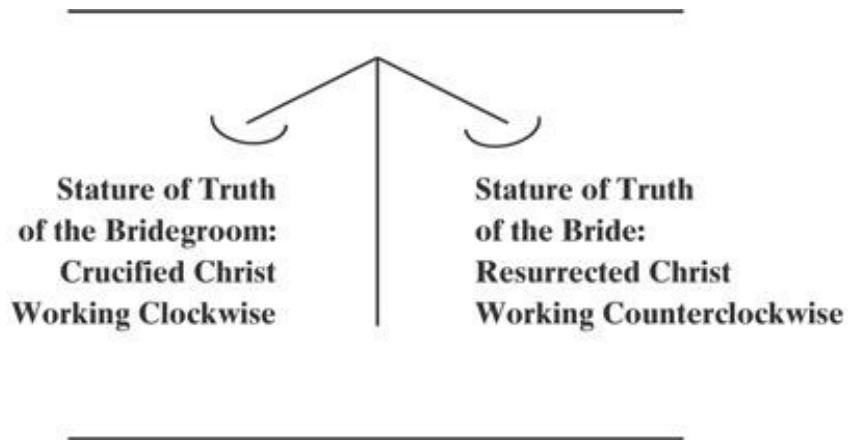
If our spiritual goal is to attain the Prize of being in the Bride of Jesus Christ, we must become special warriors for the Bridegroom-Truth; we must get our will cleaned up. I have known people who have refused to allow God to deal with their wills, and they have ended up in a worse state than they were in before they started walking in the Crucified Way.

Going on for God is easy, beloved, as long as He is not touching *strong* areas of our will. But we need to remember that man drank of the Serpent's River of Deceit that said, "My way is the best way; it is better than God's Way." And this river still is in the human will. We will not grow to spiritual maturity in our moral development until we acknowledge the lie, the River of Deceit, that says our way is the best way. Our way is *not* the best way. Our Father's Way *is the best way*.

Our responsibility is not to make choices for other people; however, it is our responsibility to open our mouths and give them the Truth.

The Waters of the humble Surrender and Obedience of Jesus Christ's Name, His Death, and His Resurrection Life also deliver us from the Tree of Disobedient Death and the death of dragon-spirits. The Way of Jesus Christ's Name, Death, and Life gives us victory over dragon-spirits. This is why we cannot grow in the Stature of the Bridegroom-Truth without the Name of the LORD Jesus Christ and the Waters of His Death and Life. There is no way to overcome dragon-spirits except through Jesus Christ's Blood, the Fire of the Spirit of Truth, and Jesus Christ's Name, Death, and Life.

In order to help us achieve our moral growth and development in our natural and spiritual education, the LORD Jesus Christ works in both a clockwise and a counterclockwise movement. Sometimes He leads us in a clockwise movement through His Blood, Fire and Water; sometimes He leads us counterclockwise through His Blood, Water, and Fire. Jesus Christ's *clockwise* leading belongs to the Stature of Truth of the *Bridegroom*; His *counterclockwise* leading belongs to the Stature of Truth of the *Bride*.



The Mosaic Tabernacle was laid out in the form of the Cross, revealing the Stature of the Bridegroom and the Bride. The first piece of furniture found in the Courtyard was the Brazen Altar. The LORD God had Aaron the High Priest slay the sacrificial animal, apply the blood to the Brazen Altar, and offer the sacrifice. The LORD God gave Israel a visible witness when the sacrifice was acceptable to Him because Fire from God's Spirit fell upon the sacrifice and changed it into smoke that ascended into God's nostrils as a sweet-smelling savour. Then, the Priests washed, daily, in the Waters of the Brazen Laver before they journeyed upward into the Holy Place in the Bridegroom's Stature of Truth.

The shadow and type of the clockwise working of Blood, Fire, and Water was fulfilled by Jesus Christ on the Cross. When Jesus poured out His Blood as a Sacrifice and Atonement for sin, the veil of the Temple was rent, and the Glory-Fire came forth and fell upon Jesus Christ. Then, Jesus gave up the Ghost, and His Soul descended into the Waters of Death to complete the clockwise wheel of cleansing for the penalty of sin and death for man.

The clockwise wheel of cleansing by Blood, Fire, and Water had to be set in motion *daily* before the Priest could ascend into the Holy Place and minister at the Golden Altar, the Golden Candlestick, and the Golden Table of Shewbread. These three pieces of furniture formed the crossbar of Truth in the Stature of the Bridegroom.

When God deals especially with a human being's reverse will, endeavouring to convert it into a sweet, surrendered will of a Bride, He follows the pattern of the reverse or counterclockwise wheel that turned in the Mosaic Tabernacle to take the Priest from Blood, to Water, to Fire. Every morning and evening, the Priest offered up the sacrifice of the whole burnt offering; next, he washed his hands and feet in the Waters of the Laver, and then he picked up fresh coals of fire from the Brazen Altar to help him in his ministry in the Holy Place.

The shadow and type of the counterclockwise movement of the wheel of Blood, Water, and Fire was fulfilled when Jesus died on the Cross. First, He shed His Blood; then He descended into the Waters of Death for three days and nights. At the end of the third day, He arose with new resurrection Fire or Life. So through Jesus Christ's Suffering, Death, and Resurrection, the counterclockwise wheel was set in motion.

On the Day of Pentecost, the Apostle Peter preached the counterclockwise wheel of Blood, Water, and Fire.

Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive **the gift of the Holy Ghost** (Acts 2:38).

In the Old Testament dispensation, the Prophet Elijah demonstrated the Truth of the counterclockwise wheel of Blood, Water, and Fire when he challenged the prophets of Baal to prove who was the True and Living God — the LORD or Baal.

And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name: And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed. And he put the wood in order, and **cut the bullock in pieces**, and laid *him* on the wood, and said, **Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice**, and on the wood. And he said, Do *it* the second time. And they did *it* the second time. And he said, Do *it* the third time. And they did *it* the third time. And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water. And it came to pass at *the time* of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou *art* God in Israel, and *that I am* thy servant, and *that I have done* all these things at thy word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou *art* the LORD God, and *that* thou hast turned their heart back again. Then **the fire of the LORD fell**,

and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench (1 Kings 18:31-38).

On this occasion, Elijah put the counterclockwise wheel in motion. He built an altar of twelve stones and placed upon it the sacrifice and the blood. Then, he poured twelve barrels of water upon the sacrifice. The counterclockwise wheel was complete when, in answer to Elijah's fervent prayer, the LORD God sent down Fire from Heaven to join with the blood and the water. New resurrection Life and Faith were ministered in Israel that day as a result of the blood, water, and Fire.

When, by faith, we lay hold of the Blood of Obedience, the Death-Waters of Jesus Christ's complete Surrender, and the Fire of His Resurrection Life, we can overcome all desolation, death, and destruction of the Dragon and his army of dragon-spirits.

As we press toward spiritual Canaan's Land and ascend in the Stature of the crucified Christ, we grow up on the clockwise side of the Blood, Fire, and Water. This wheel is for the crucifixion of our counterclockwise will that was twisted in reverse from the beginning. So we have the wheel of Blood, Fire, and Water for the defeat of our crooked, reverse will. Sometimes God's Will goes counterclockwise because He is preparing us for a new cycle of resurrection Power in the resurrected Christ.

The clockwise wheel of Blood, Fire, and Water of the crucified Christ and the counterclockwise wheel of the Blood, Water, and Fire of the resurrected Christ form a giant gyroscope that keeps believers' wills sanctified and balanced as they press into spiritual maturity in Christ Jesus' Stature.

When we are going on for God in His Spiritual Truth, it is necessary for us to come through the clockwise wheels of Blood, Fire, and Water before we reach the Truth found at the Golden Altar, the Golden Candlestick, and the Golden Table of Shewbread. In order for us to progress further in our spiritual growth in the Stature of Truth in Christ Jesus, God also has to deal with our River of Deceit and lay the ax at the root of our Tree of Death. This means that He has to put us on the counterclockwise wheel that takes us from Blood, to Water, to Fire.

And Babylon shall become heaps, a dwelling place for dragons, an astonishment, and a hissing, without an inhabitant (Jeremiah 51:37).

God punished Babylon for her great sin of idolatry and mercilessness to His people. While Belshazzar and his guests were reveling and carousing at the banquet, convulsed in their drunken fiesta, the LORD God let the Kingdom of Babylon be taken captive and sleep a perpetual sleep of death. God caused the Kingdom of Babylon to be killed, and her deceased kingdom became a nesting place, a dwelling place, for dragon-spirits.

Esau was another whose land was given over to dragon-spirits. God hated the cruel antagonism and hostility that Esau exhibited toward Jacob. With bitter intensity, Esau's descendants gloated over Israel's downfall when Babylon took her captive. God remembered the insults and injuries inflicted upon Israel by Esau and his descendants, the Edomites. Consequently, God sent a great catastrophe on Edom, leaving his mountains desolate and barren for the wild animals in the natural realm and their dragon-counterparts in the spiritual realm.

And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness (Malachi 1:3).

Esau and Jacob had been trained by the same parents, Isaac and Rebekah. Esau had been given the Truth, but he turned from it and persecuted Jacob who loved and obeyed the Truth.

People who once have known the LORD and His Truth are much more violent against God's Way of Truth and His children than people who never have known Him. When God brings down these rebellious ones with spiritual Death, they become a nesting place for dragon-spirits who hate, persecute, insult, and injure those who love and obey the Truth. Apostates are more violent against the Truth than those who never have known the Truth.

B. Dragon-Spirits Dwell in Places of Pleasure.

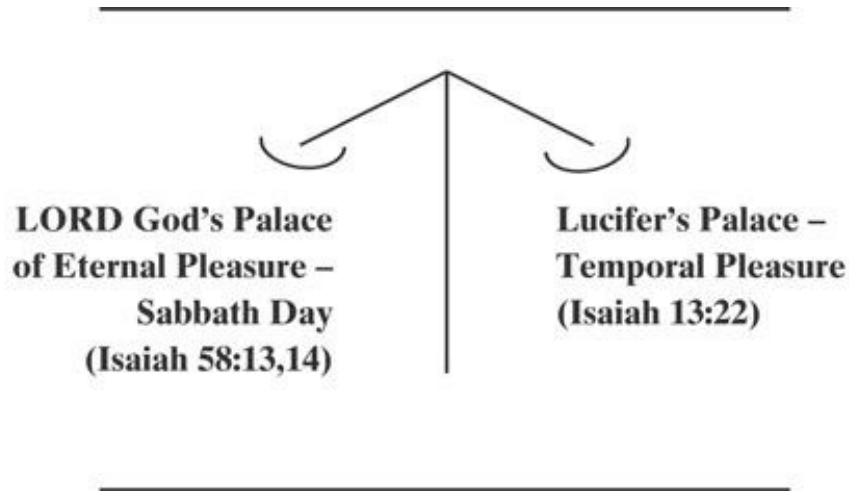
Pleasure is the second place in which dragon-spirits love to dwell. It is important for God's children to be selective about the kind of pleasure they enjoy, lest they make themselves a fit habitation for dragon-spirits. Believers who want to walk with God in His Way of Truth have to be on guard all the time. Many Christians start out running well in their spiritual race; however, not all of them continue to run well. Those who do not live in the Word of God enough to become enlightened about how to separate themselves from evil pleasures soon find themselves attracting dragon-spirits.

And the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and **dragons in their pleasant palaces:** and her time is near to come, and her days shall not be prolonged (Isaiah 13:22).

The Hebrew root word for *pleasant* is *aw-mag*, meaning delight self, soft, pliable, effeminate, sport self, luxurious.

Babylon lived in luxury, sporting herself against God and His people. So God, in His righteous Judgment, turned Babylon's palaces of pleasure into dwelling places for dragon-spirits.

God mercifully has offered man His Palace of Eternal Pleasure — His "Sabbath Day." From the beginning, however, man has preferred Lucifer's palace of temporal pleasure, not knowing that, in the end, Lucifer's palace is to be desolate and the habitation of dragon-spirits.



If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it (Isaiah 58:13,14).

If Israel had turned her feet away from doing her own mundane occupations on God's honourable Holy Day and had observed His Holy Day with a spirit of joyfulness and cheerfulness, the LORD God promised that He would give her great delight in Himself. He promised to cause her to ride upon the Earth with honour, power, and influence and to help her gain all the extensive territory promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

If we will lay aside the plans we have for fulfilling the desires of our own will, of doing our secular affairs on the LORD's Day, of doing our temporal, carnal pleasure on His Holy Day, the LORD will fill us with His Eternal Pleasure and Delight. He will give us honour, power, and influence with others, and He will help us possess spiritual Canaan's Land.

As Christians, we should guard the LORD's Holy Sabbath Day, lest we become a dwelling place for dragon-spirits. We cannot war against the Dragon and live in Lucifer's palace of pleasure at the same time. Once people have given themselves to different kinds of carnal, temporal pleasure on the LORD's Day and have opened themselves for dragon-spirits of pleasure to come upon them, it is difficult for them to choose the Eternal Pleasure of the LORD's Sabbath Day. They find it terribly hard to lay aside carnal pleasures and allow God to give them victory over them. They have to be sincerely determined, spiritually, to walk with the LORD; they have to humble themselves tremendously before God.

The Eternal Pleasure of the LORD's Sabbath Day prevails and overpowers all temporal pleasure of the Dragon's palace.

C. Dragon-Spirits Dwell Where There Is Dry, Thirsty Ground.

Dry, thirsty ground, in both the natural and spiritual realms, furnishes a third dwelling place for dragon-spirits.

And **the parched ground** shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: **in the habitation of dragons**, where each lay, *shall be* grass with reeds and rushes (Isaiah 35:7).

When Jesus Christ returns to Earth as the Messiah of Israel, the Waters of His Holy Name will flow out of the Sanctuary, making glad the City of God, the new, earthly Jerusalem that He will build during His Millennial Reign. Souls who have been burned and parched by God's divine, fiery Wrath will be comforted and refreshed by the Messiah's Life-giving Waters. The Life-giving Waters of the LORD's Name of the will flow over the parched ground of the soul and dispossess the dragon-spirits that have dwelled there. The flowing Waters of the LORD's Name and the LORD's Spirit always carry away the lies and untruths of dragon-spirits.

Dragon-spirits inhabit dry, thirsty ground. But when the Waters of Life turn the barren land into pools of Living Waters of Truth, dragon-spirits will not remain in the pools of Truth.

Jesus told of a certain man out of whom an unclean spirit was cast. Later, the unclean spirit returned and found his house swept and clean but dry and thirsty. Immediately, the unclean spirit went out and gathered seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they all returned to take up their abode in his house.

Dragon-spirits do not object to a clean place if it is dry and parched and unfilled with the Waters of Truth. We ourselves have to fill our earth with the Waters of Truth so that we will not become a habitation for dragon-spirits.

During the time of the Millennial Kingdom, the Waters of the LORD's Truth will drive away dragon-spirits. The Waters of Truth have the same power today. If we live in the Waters of Truth, they drive away dragon-spirits. However, if we allow our soul to remain empty and dry, dragon-spirits will inhabit us. Remember, *all* Scripture is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness.

And I will make Jerusalem heaps, **and a den of dragons**; and I will make the cities of Judah desolate, without an inhabitant (Jeremiah 9:11).

When Israel and Jerusalem refused to be filled with the Waters of the *Torah*, the Law of Truth, they became dry and thirsty. So God turned them over to become habitations for dragon-spirits. When, as a nation, they refused the Waters of the LORD's Name, they were turned over to the tremendous dragon-spirits in Lucifer's army.

Behold, the noise of the bruit is come, and a great commotion out of the north country, to make the cities of Judah desolate, **and a den of dragons** (Jeremiah 10:22).

Israel rejected the Waters of God's Spirit and the Waters of the Truth of His *Torah*; consequently, God sent Babylon to make their land desolate and a habitation for dragon-spirits. If we refuse to accept Christ's Waters of Truth and do not allow them to fill our dry hearts, God will have no choice but to turn us over to dragon-spirits.

Great is the darkness that overshadows dry, thirsty desert land, for it is a nesting place for dragon-spirits. We have a tremendous responsibility, then, to lay hold of the Light of Truth and the Waters of Truth in order to be a fit habitation for the LORD God.

D. Dragon-Spirits Will Dwell Eternally in the Lake of Fire.

The Lake of Fire will be the fourth and the last, the eternal, abode of dragon-spirits. When Jesus Christ returns and fights the Battle of Idumea, a portion of the land will be turned into an eternal Lake of Fire in which all disobedient creation will be housed. Jesus Christ will turn some of the land into brimstone, which will burn with pitch and fire forever and ever.

For *it is* the day of the LORD's vengeance, *and* the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion. **And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch. It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever: from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever.** But the cormorant and the bittern shall possess it; the owl also and the raven shall dwell in it: and he shall stretch out upon it the line of confusion, and the stones of emptiness. They shall call the nobles thereof to the kingdom, but none *shall be* there, and all her princes shall be nothing. And thorns shall come up in her palaces, nettles and brambles in the fortresses thereof: and it shall be an habitation of dragons, *and* a court for owls. The wild beasts of the desert shall also meet with the wild beasts of the island, and the satyr shall cry to his fellow; the screech owl also shall rest there, and find for herself a place of rest. There shall the great owl make her nest, and lay, and hatch, and gather under her shadow: there shall the vultures also be gathered, every one with her mate. Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them. And he hath cast the lot for them, and his hand hath divided it unto them by

line: they shall possess it for ever, from generation to generation shall they dwell therein (Isaiah 34:8-17).

The birds mentioned in these verses are not natural birds. They are rebellious spirits and devils who will be cast into the Lake of Fire before Christ's Millennial Reign begins. Confusion, astonishment, surprise, disorder, turmoil, chaos, furor, shame, embarrassment, and emptiness will reign in the Lake of Fire.

Some people think they cannot have any fun going on for God. Their diseased perception of reality causes them to think that serving the LORD is all emptiness. They are too ashamed and embarrassed to stand for God's Truth. They think that worshipping God in the demonstrations of the Spirit is too disorganized and chaotic. However, these poor, deceived souls will be shocked when they learn, by experience in the Lake of Fire, what confusion, chaos, and emptiness really are. We have all the joy in the world going on for God because He fills us with His Spirit and Truth, but the Lake of Fire will be empty of the Waters of God's Truth and God's Spirit.

In the Lake of Fire, every person will be nothing, regardless of who he or she was in this life. People who sow emptiness of soul in this life will reap emptiness in the Lake of Fire. Man sows emptiness of soul by ignoring God's Truth and Spirit in this life.

IV. Dragon-Spirits Have Places of Defeat.

After seeing that dragon-spirits have power to war, that they have a purpose in warring, and that dragon-spirits dwell in certain places, we come to the last major point in our study and see the two places in which dragon-spirits are defeated.

A. Dragon-Spirits Are Defeated in the Waters of Jesus Christ's Name, Death, and Life.

In the Old Testament dispensation, the LORD God broke the heads of dragons in the waters of the Red Sea as a visible demonstration that dragon-spirits are defeated, overcome, subdued, and conquered in the Waters of Jesus Christ's Name, Death, and Life.

Thou didst divide the sea by thy strength: **thou brakest the heads of the dragons in the waters.** Thou brakest the heads of leviathan in pieces, *and* gavest him *to be* meat to the people inhabiting the wilderness. Thou didst cleave the fountain and the flood: thou driedst up mighty rivers (Psalm 74:13-15).

God used Pharaoh and his army to reveal a twofold picture of the great Dragon and his army of dragon-spirits. Pharaoh himself was a "dragon" because he had the Dragon's spirit in him; Pharaoh's soldiers were "dragons" because they were filled with spirits from Lucifer's army of dragons. Therefore, the confrontation at the Red Sea was more than a physical battle between the people of Israel and the Egyptians. A spiritual battle between God and Lucifer, the Dragon, was fought there, too.

The Hebrew word for *brakest* means to burst, crush, destroy, bring to hurt, crack in pieces, bruise, discourage, oppress, struggle together.

When Moses lifted the Rod of God, upon which the Name of the LORD God was written, the Red Sea was opened. Accompanying the Rod that divided the waters was the Breath of the LORD's nostrils. The LORD's Cold Breath froze the water into icy walls, and His Hot Breath dried up a path in the midst of the sea so that Israel could cross over on dry ground. The LORD's Name made a way through the Waters of Death for Israel. After all the Israelites were standing safely on the wilderness side of the Red Sea, Moses again lifted up the Rod of God, and the Waters of Death closed upon Pharaoh and his army. Thus, at the Red Sea, the Name of the LORD God was joined to the Waters of Death *and* Life.

Breaking the dragons' heads in the waters of the Red Sea was a prophetic picture of when God's Son, Jesus Christ would come in a body of mortal flesh to bruise the Serpent's head and break the Dragon's head. In time, Jesus Christ came in flesh and went to Calvary's Cross. Through the Blood from His Cross, Jesus Christ bruised the Serpent's head. Then, Jesus Christ broke the Dragon's head when, with His Name, His Death of Obedience, and His resurrection Life, Jesus went through the waters of Lucifer's death.

Jesus Christ has broken all of Lucifer's head-realm power, including his serpentine head of deceit and his dragon-mind which lies against the Truth. In Christ Jesus we have victory over the enemy! No other way exists that will take victory over dragon-spirits except using Jesus Christ's Name, Death, and Life. In Israel's journey out of Egypt,

she applied the Principle of the clockwise application of Blood, Fire, and Water. First, God gave her the Passover Blood in Egypt. At Etham, He gave her the Cloud and Fire; and at the Red Sea, He gave her the Waters of His Name because His Name was upon the Rod that went down into the waters of the Red Sea to part them.

We meet dragon-spirits and death whether we are going clockwise or counterclockwise. On the clockwise movement of the wheel, we get rid of dragon-spirits by crucifying our flesh and leaving it in the pool of the crucified Christ's Death. When we are going counterclockwise, we obtain victory over dragon-spirits by taking Jesus Christ's Name and Christ's Resurrection Life and rebuking dragon-spirits.

When do we meet these dragon-spirits, and how do we recognize them so that we can war against them to gain victory? One way is this: before Christians arrive at the House of God to worship, dragon-spirits frequently start working against their minds by accusing their brothers or sisters to them. We need to learn what makes us accuse each other and what makes us accuse God. It is Lucifer's dragon-spirits!

Sometimes dragon-spirits meet God's people outside the church door to try to hinder them from receiving God's Word of Truth by filling their minds with lying accusations against the saints. If dragon-spirits do not meet us outside the House of God, they meet us inside to suggest all kinds of things that are wrong with the service and those who are leading the service.

We must rise up and take the victory with Jesus Christ's Name and Resurrection Life. Real gladness and happiness fill our heart when we are victorious in overcoming Lucifer's dragon-spirits.

B. Dragon-Spirits Are Defeated in the Place of Praise to the LORD.

The place of praise to the LORD is the second place in which dragon-spirits are defeated, frustrated, and subdued.

Praise the LORD from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps: Fire, and hail; snow, and vapour; stormy wind fulfilling his word: (Psalm 148:7,8).

Praise brings great death to dragon-spirits. In this present time, when dragon-spirits are subdued under Jesus Christ's Blood and the Waters of His Name, Death, and Life, God is praised as dragon-spirits slink away in defeat. In Eternity, God will be praised when He casts all dragon-spirits into the Lake of Fire because the torment of that place will make them acknowledge the Truth that Lucifer is *not* a god and that the LORD is God!

How great to know that we are on the winning side! The LORD already is winning in my life, and He already is winning in the lives of many others. The LORD God and His Truth shall win in the final battle. Sooner or later, the Truth always wins against untruth!

The beast of the field shall honour me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, *and* rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen (Isaiah 43:20).

At the end of the Great Tribulation, the LORD Jesus Christ will return to fight His enemies in three great battles: one on the east (the Valley of Jehoshaphat), one on the south (Idumea or Bozrah), and one on the north (Armageddon). The Lake of Fire will be created at the Battle of Idumea or Bozrah. The Antichrist, the False Prophet, their armies, and ultimately, Lucifer (the Dragon) and all his dragon-spirits will be cast into the Lake of Fire. All of them will have to bow their knees and acknowledge that Jesus Christ is LORD.

That **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,** of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; **And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father** (Philippians 2:10,11).

The dragon and owl-spirits of Lucifer's armies shall give honour and praise to Jesus Christ and His Heavenly Father.

Thou didst divide the sea by their strength: **thou brakest the heads of the dragons in the waters** (Psalm 74:13).

God intends for us to break the power of dragon-spirits and discourage them instead of permitting them to discourage us. We discourage dragon-spirits by speaking the Truth to them and by using, against them, the Waters of Jesus Christ's Name, Death, and Life, by faith.

When Jesus Christ went down into the Waters of Death, He took the keys of Hell and Death away from Lucifer. Therefore, when dragon-spirits try to make us think that they are too big and strong for us to overcome, we should rise up and speak the Truth to them, saying, "You are not so big and strong: Jesus Christ already has taken the keys

of Hell and Death away from you, and I am on the winning side.”

When we throw the Name of Jesus, by faith, at dragon-spirits, the Truth discourages and torments them. Through Christ, the Living Word of Truth, we have power to discourage them so much that they will slink away for a season. We need to remember, however, that Lucifer sneaks back every once in a while to see if one of God’s children has backslidden. He keeps a close check on us. He watches our backsliding closer than we watch it ourselves.

Sometimes, when we go to pray, he walks into our prayer closet to try to threaten us and scare us into turning away from God. He is a smart character, but we can resist him in the Name of the LORD Jesus Christ.

We resist Lucifer, the Dragon, and his army of dragon-spirits by taking a fresh, new plunge into the Waters of Jesus Christ’s Death; we can sanctify ourselves by faith, by saying, “Oh, God, sanctify me afresh and anew. If there is anything in my will that is displeasing to you, please sanctify me.” Each time we take a fresh plunge into Christ’s Death, we come up on the other side with His resurrection Life and Power!

We cannot war against dragon-spirits unless we come through the Waters of the Name or Nature of Jesus Christ. It was His Nature that made Jesus Christ go to Calvary’s Cross and give His Life for us. It was His Nature that made Him go into the chilly, cold Waters of Death and come up in resurrection Life on the other side. When we take on His Name or Nature, we, too, surrender to pour out our lives and give our last drop of life for Jesus Christ and His Kingdom. When we take on His Name, then death comes to that portion of our flesh that does not want to obey God’s Will. After the death of the flesh, we experience the glorious resurrection Life of Jesus Christ on the other side. With the Cold Breath of Christ’s Death and with the Hot Breath of Christ’s resurrection Life, we defeat the Dragon and his army of dragon-spirits. The Dragon cannot stand Christ’s Cold Breath of Humility nor His fiery Hot Breath of resurrection Power.

This Principle of Truth was demonstrated in shadow and type at the Red Sea. God’s Icy Breath caused the waters of the Red Sea to stand up in icy walls so that Israel could pass through. After Israel had passed through the sea, the Egyptians followed into the pathway opened between the icy walls. Then, God sent His Glory and Fire which melted the icy walls, and the “dragons” (the Egyptians) were overwhelmed and drowned in the sea. Thus, the dragon-spirits’ position of defeat was a place of praise and honour to God’s mighty Power.

It is a testimony, a glory, an honour, a praise to God’s Cold and Hot Breath and to the Waters of Christ’s Name, Death, and Life, when the children of God overcome the dragon-spirits in Lucifer’s army. Then, they can walk deeper and higher in God’s Truth. When the Dragon is cast out of our pathway, we can walk on with Christ, bringing Glory to God. This is a praise before the spirit-world, and this is a praise in our own lives.

From his position of defeat, the Dragon acknowledges that he is not as powerful as God. From his low position, the Dragon admits that he is a defeated soul. God will keep backing the Dragon away from His people until He backs him into the Eternal Lake of Fire. Then, the Dragon will be forced to acknowledge, with his own mouth, that the LORD is God. The Dragon will be forced to praise the LORD God as a Creator, as a God of Truth. He will be forced to acknowledge that the LORD is a Just, Holy, Honest, and True God. The Dragon will be forced to acknowledge that God’s Justice has put him into the Lake of Fire and stripped him of his deceitful covering that made him *appear* as a god to the True God’s creation.

The Dragon’s purpose in the beginning was to try to prevent Israel from going into the wilderness and obtaining the Mosaic Tabernacle of Truth. He wanted to stop Israel from pressing on into Canaan’s Land and becoming the LORD God’s “Spouse Nation.” The Dragon worked through Pharaoh by personally inhabiting him, and he worked through Pharaoh’s army by filling his soldiers with his army of dragon-spirits; however, the LORD God’s Name and the Waters of Death and Life in the Red Sea prevailed over Israel’s enemies and the dragon-spirits so that Israel could continue her journey to Canaan’s Land.

Likewise, the Dragon works today to try to prevent the child of God from going in the way of Truth and finding the full Stature of Truth in the Bridegroom, Jesus Christ. But, thanks be unto the LORD God for the victory in Jesus Christ that overcomes the Dragon and all his dragon-spirits!

