

THE TWO NATIONS OF THE MIND

by George Kirkpatrick

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds." Hebrews 1:1-2

God spoke by His prophets in times past. They recorded the words of God and the happenings of God concerning His people. As we understand that history is HIS STORY, the Bible declares His story of His people. Secular people have recorded it from their point of view which brings doubt in people's lives when they read the account of men, instead of God's account of what God did concerning His people. When we read the Bible we are sometimes confused by these conflicting accounts. We are more apt to believe the physical account rather than the Spiritual account because we have not overcome the natural, carnal mind. The physical account, therefore, makes much more sense to us than does God's Spiritual account of the same instance. We must cast off the carnal and give God access to our Spiritual mind if we are to understand the Word from God's point of view.

The writer of Hebrews states God sent His Son to speak to His creation, man, encouraging us to be an example to all mankind. The Word reveals the life that we are to live if we are to return to our proper place in God, so that we might dwell in His presence. As we study the Word we come to the realization that the words Jesus spoke were the words of the Father. John recorded Jesus' words:

"And I know that His commandment is life everlasting; whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto Me, so I speak." John 12:50

Every word that Jesus spoke came directly from the mouth of the Father. So the recorded words of Jesus are the words of the Father (the Holy Spirit) spoken through the mouth of Jesus. When we come to this place in God, we can proclaim as Jesus proclaimed when He was tried by Satan in the wilderness:

". . . It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4

Our bread will be every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. And we can then honestly say:

"My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work." John 4:34

But until we overcome the carnal mind we have two nations, two kingdoms, battling for the control of our mind. These two nations or kingdoms are the

Kingdom of Light and the kingdom of darkness. The Kingdom of Light is referred to 71 times in the Bible as the Kingdom of God, and 32 times as the Kingdom of heaven. By the Word, we also know that satan has a kingdom. Jesus stated:

"And if satan cast out satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?" Matthew 12:26

Satan is not divided against himself. But through confusion he seeks to divide those in the Kingdom of God. Another way these two kingdoms can be described is the kingdom of the flesh and the Kingdom of the Spirit. When God recorded the birth of Jacob and Esau, He gave us an example of these two nations:

"And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the Lord. And the Lord said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger." Genesis 25:22-23

Rebekah bare Isaac twins, Esau and Jacob. Both these men were to become great nations. Both these men were to have their names changed. Esau's name was changed to Edom. He was the father of the Edomites. Jacob's name was changed to Israel, and he fathered the twelve tribes of Israel. These were known as the children of Israel, or the Israelites.

The Edomites are the modern nation, Palestine, who were dislocated from the nation, Israel, after the 1967 war. There has been war between the descendants of Esau and Jacob for thousands of years. It began in Rebekah's womb, and there will never be peace between these two nations, as there will never be peace between the flesh and the Spirit. Paul wrote to the Romans:

"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." Romans 8:7

There can be no peace between the flesh and spirit because the carnal mind is not subject to the law of God. The Law of God is the Holy Bible and when we begin to follow the Word of God, the flesh rebels and the carnal mind does not want to submit to the ways of God. The name **Jacob** means *"supplanter, one who takes the place of another"*. The name **Esau** means *"hairy or shaggy; also his doings"*.

When Esau was born we are told:

"And the first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau." Genesis 25:25

When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, God clothed them with the skins of animals, or with the beast nature. The name **Adam** is the Hebrew word ADOM

and means "*red*". So Esau, the first born, represents the old man, the soulish man, the fleshly and worldly man. We all, as Esau, were clothed with the beast nature, born into sin and in need of a Saviour.

We know that Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of beans. His birthright in God meant nothing to him. Many today have sold their birthright in God, and will one day seek that birthright, but it will be too late. The writer of Hebrews spoke of Esau:

"For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears." Hebrews 12:17

There are some today who would have us believe that all will be reconciled back to God. Some even go so far as to state that all who ever lived will eventually be saved. These teachers are deceivers, and the truth is not in them.

When Esau sought the blessing from Isaac, there was no blessing because he had no birthright. Most would say that Jacob tricked Isaac, and stole Esau's blessing. We need to realize that even if Jacob and Rebekah had done nothing, God would still have stopped Isaac from blessing Esau, because Esau had despised his birthright in God.

Jacob was the supplanter; the one who was to take the place of another. Jacob's name was changed to **Israel** which means "*ruler with God, or Prince of God*". A prince is the son of the king. When we come to a knowing relationship with God, then the new man, the new creation in God, will take the place of the man of sin clothed in the old, beast nature. The name **Esau** also means "*his doing*". This represents those who insist on doing their own thing. At the end of the book of Judges we discover that the whole nation of Israel had come to this place in their walk with God.

"In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes." Judges 21:25

There was no king in Israel and every man did that which was right in his own eyes. If we have not made God king in our lives, and we insist in doing what is right in our own eyes, we will have no birthright in God. When it comes time for the blessing or inheritance, we will have no blessing from God because we have despised our birthright.

So, we have two nations or kingdoms who are in the earth today; those who have supplanted the old man with the new man; and those who are still clothed with the beast nature, doing their own thing, taking care of good ole' # 1, living after the lust

of the flesh, the lust of the eye and pride of life, giving in to every sensual desire and pleasure. Paul wrote:

"Howbeit that was not first which is Spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is Spiritual." I Corinthians 15:46

Our first nature was natural. It had to be replaced by that which is Spiritual. We have all been born a natural creation, but once we have come to the new birth, the old man must be replaced by the new creation man. Paul spoke of this:

"And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Ephesians 4:24

Rebekah had two nations battling in her womb. And we, too, have two nations or kingdoms battling in our womb which is our mind or soul. We know that everything which is conceived in the womb of the mind is birthed by the mouth and the body. We speak nothing unless it is conceived in the soul or mind first.

Jesus informed us:

"O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Matthew 12:34

The abundance of the heart, both good and evil, is what comes forth from our mouths. There are two nations, two kingdoms in our soul, battling for the control of our mind, the body, and the mouth. These two nations or kingdoms have two kings set over them. One is Christ, the other is anti-christ. The prefix **anti** means *"against or instead of"*. The anti-christ king has many names: Lucifer, devil, deceiver, tempter, murderer, the evil one; or we could just call him the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. Then the question might be asked, "Is lust and satan the same?" "NO!" Let's look at some scriptures:

"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." James 1:14-15

"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof." Romans 6:12

"For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." Galatians 5:17

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears." II Timothy 4:3

When we give into the lust of the flesh, we are not serving the Kingdom of Light, but rather we are giving place to satan, and bringing glory unto his kingdom because we are serving his kingdom. Then when God has to correct us and bring us back into line through chastisement, we begin to cry out, "Satan is so mean to me. I wish God would make him leave me alone."

When we do the will of the Father, we have come to the place in God that we can state as Jesus:

"For the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me." John 14:30

When the prince of this world comes to us, he should find nothing in us that he would desire because everything in us should belong to the Kingdom of God.

In this generation, man has refused to endure sound doctrine, but would rather listen to people who will "tickle the ears" and tell them they can never be perfect in this life-time, and to hang on until Jesus comes back and makes it all OK. These are not taught "overcoming". Most are not even taught that there are two kingdoms. Those who do not overcome will be overcome. Lust leads to sin, and sin brings forth death; perhaps not physical death, but spiritual death. When spiritual death comes, we become entrenched in the kingdom of darkness. Many are in this kingdom and, because they are spiritually dead, they do not even realize it. They go on doing their religious ceremonies and believe they are acceptable in the sight of God. These have sold their birthright and will receive no blessing.

In the last book of the Old Testament, God reminds us of His love for Jacob and His hatred for Esau:

*"I have loved you, saith the Lord, Yet ye say, Wherein hath thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the Lord: yet I loved Jacob, And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness."
Malachi 1:2-3*

God hates the Esau spirit, those whose birthright in God has no value to them; and they continue in the ways of the world. These have viewed the light and chosen the darkness. These two nations are at war in the mind. Both want control of the mind and the will of man. This is a spiritual battle.

When the Bible speaks of heaven, it is not talking about a place. It is speaking of a realm. That realm is the spiritual realm; and the war spoken of in the Bible is in the spiritual realm. It is the battle over the control of the mind or the will of man.

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent

called the devil, and satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night." Revelation 12:7-10

This battle continues in the heavenly realm until we concede all to Christ (the Holy Spirit operating in our lives). When this takes place, then the one who accuses us day and night will be cast down. Then will come salvation, strength, the kingdom of God, and the power of His Christ. These are the Christ (anointed ones) to the Son. Those who come into this place in God will have the power of Christ operating in their lives and they will go forth to do the greater works in God, greater than even Jesus. As Jesus declares:

*"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do: because I go unto My Father."
John 14:12*

These two nations or kingdoms are battling for control and we direct the armies. If we give the kingdom of darkness place, he will be the victor. If we give no place to the devil and resist him, then the Kingdom of Light (Christ) will have pre-eminence in our lives and we will cast satan out of his place in the heavenly realm in our lives.

Many believe Jesus defeated satan on the cross. The battle has never been between Christ and satan. Jesus went to the cross that we may have the power over death, not to defeat satan. Satan never had any power in the Kingdom of God. The name of Jesus had power over satan while Jesus walked on the earth. It is recorded in Luke:

"And John answered and said, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name; and we forbad him, because he followeth not with us." Luke 9:49

John saw a man casting out demons in Jesus' name and this man was not even a believer. The name of Jesus had power over the demonic realm before Jesus went to the cross. Even the demonic realm knows there is a time when they will be dealt with by every believer. They spoke to Jesus,

"They cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? Art thou come hither to torment us before the time?" Matthew 8:29

There is a time set when satan and all his hoards will be cast from the heavenly realm. When we begin to realize the battle in the heavenlies is for our souls, we will then do the spiritual warfare necessary to have the victory that Christ wrought

for us on the cross. It is all possible in the name of Jesus. The prophet Isaiah asked the question:

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, Son of the Morning, How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!" Isa 14:12

The word for **nations** in this verse is the Hebrew word GOY and means "people". Isaiah goes on to relate:

"For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Isaiah 14:13-14

Satan, (Lucifer), said he would exalt his throne above the stars of God. The stars of God are the angels (messengers, pastors, elders, etc) to the churches - - those true men of God, who are sent from God as gifts unto men, Ephesians 4:8-11.

Truly, we need constant prayer because satan wants to control our minds. As he states, "I will sit upon the mountain of the sides of the north." We are informed that "the sides of the north" is the city Mt Zion, the city of the great king:

"Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King." Psalm 48:2

Mt. Zion is the holy city of God, New Jerusalem. Revelation 21:2

Satan also proclaimed, "I will be like the Most High God. Satan wants to take the place of God in our lives; and that is to control our minds and our wills. If he can do that he will allow us to have all the religion we want. We can do all the good works, but he is in control of our mind. He will make us think our religion and good works are acceptable to God. But God will say to many:

"I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity." Matthew 7:23

Many are satisfied with their walk in God. They are not in spiritual warfare for the control of their soul. When we desire to go on into Christ, we must put on the mind of Christ, and cast satan out of our heavenly realm that we may put on the power of God in our lives.

The time of the power of His Christ has come! Isaiah wrote:

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." Isaiah 28:3

Do you want perfect peace? Good works will not give us perfect peace. Church attendance will not give us perfect peace. Reading the Bible will not give us perfect peace. Nothing will give us perfect peace until satan is cast out of the heavenlies.

Until total control is given over to Christ, man will never have perfect peace. Our minds, our wills, our total being must fully be given over to Christ. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians about the coming of the day of the Lord:

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition. II Thessalonians 2:3

Paul related that we should not be deceived. Before the day of the Lord can come, there must be a falling away first. That falling away will be when God exposes those who have made flesh their king and are walking in the ways of the world. We are informed by Peter that judgment must begin at the house of God:

"Secondly, Paul says that day can not come until the man of sin, the son of perdition be revealed." I Peter 4:17

It is time that the man of sin be revealed in our lives. As we look at the original meaning of the words

man
sin
son
and perdition

First, we discover **man** is the Greek word ANTHROPOS, and means *"human being"*.

The word **sin** is HARAAMATRIA and means *"to miss the mark, to fall short of the target"*.

The word **son** is HIUOS and means *"the relationship an off-spring has to his parents"*.

The word **perdition** means *"the destiny of a man persistent in evil"*.

When we re-assemble these words it reveals that the man of sin, the son of perdition, is the human being who falls short of the goal God has set for him, because he is persistent to do evil and has fallen and yielded to the parent or king he chooses to follow.

The battle for our soul and will of our life wages. Until we cast down satan from our heavenlies, the battle will rage and the man of sin, the son of perdition in our lives, will not have been dealt with.

The power of Christ cannot be resident in our lives until we deal with the man of sin. Whichever king we yield to, that will be the man who is brought forth. It will be the man of sin, or the man of God. Paul addressed this issue in his letter to the Romans:

"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." Romans 6:12-13

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death or of obedience unto righteousness?" Romans 6:16

Whom we yield to is whom we are the servants to. If we allow sin to reign (have control), we will obey the lust of the flesh. As we study these scriptures, we are informed it is our will, our desire, that decides to whom we serve and yield ourselves to.

Jesus died to give us the power over death. He has given us the use of His name which has all power over the demonic realm that we may deal with the death in our lives and come forth in the power and authority of God. Now is the time to cast out the evil one and live in righteousness and true holiness.

Most of the church is waiting for a rapture, or for Jesus to return to make everything all right, then make us rulers and reigners of every thing He created. He will do this when His Word is fulfilled in our lives, and not until. The Holy Spirit directed John to write:

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is." I John 3:2

If we are not like Him when He returns, we will not see Him, for He will not appear unto us. Many quote the scripture, "Every eye will see Him." That scripture is true. But if we have not developed our spiritual eyesight, we will not see Him.

The work God gave Jesus to do in the flesh is finished. When He returned to the Father, He was glorified with the glory that God gave Him from the beginning. He will never again leave that glory. As Abraham related to the lost in torment:

"If they will not believe Moses and prophets, they will not believe one who returns from the dead." Luke 16:31

Those who will not read and believe the Old Testament (Moses and the Prophets) will not believe the One who arose from the dead (Jesus, our Lord and Saviour).

Paul related to the Corinthians:

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." II Corinthians 4:3-4

The one they have yielded their high place to has blinded their minds so they cannot see the glorious gospel of Christ. It is this gospel that will set them free; free from the gods of this world who keep them from coming again into the image of God. If we are again to come into the image of God, we must know the way.

Paul gives us directions in His letter to the Colossians:

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory." Colossians 3:1-4

If we have sought those things which are above (the spiritual realm) and our affections are on the things of the Spirit instead of the things of the flesh, we are truly dead in Christ and our lives are hidden with Christ in the Spiritual realm of God. Then when Christ appears, we will appear with Him in glory because we will see Him as He is because we will be like Him. Praise God!

The old man of sin, the son of perdition, will have been totally cast out of our lives.

We will have become that new creation in God. Paul went on to state that we should:

"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry." Colossians 3:5

We are to put our earthly, fleshly desires to death. The only way we can do this is to win the battle of the two kingdoms of the mind. How do we win this battle in Christ? This victory was what much of Paul's writings were about. He spoke of the circumcision of the heart in the Spirit, not in the letter (law), whose praise is not of men, but of God, Romans 2:29, cutting away the fleshly mind so God can produce

His Spirit in us. He told the Corinthians:

"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." II Corinthians 10:5

We are to cast down every vain imagination and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge God has instilled in His people. We are to bring every thought, not only those thoughts while we are in church or prayer, but every thought into the obedience of Christ. If we will do this, then the kingdom of darkness will have no place in our lives and we can truly witness that perfect peace God has promised.

"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." Romans 8:13

If we live after the flesh, desiring the fleshly things, we have God's promise that we will die. But if we, by and through the Spirit, mortify or destroy the deeds of the body, we shall live. Eternal life will consume us.

Many today do not want the Holy Spirit anointing in their lives, nor do they want the Spirit of God to change, direct, and consume their old life. God's warning to us is sure:

"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you, Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, He is none of His." Romans 8:9

If we do not have the Spirit of God working in our lives, allowing Him to change us into His image and likeness, we are none of His. These are the ones who cry, "Lord! Lord!", but He does not know them. Matthew 25:11-12

Today, many who call themselves Christian are more worldly than godly. They are "hanging on" instead of "going on". They are overcome instead of being overcomers. They are complacent, content, and stagnant in their walk in God. These are losing the battle of the two nations of the mind. The man of sin is more evident in their lives than the man of God is.

We all have decisions we must make. There are two nations, two kings, two opinions, two kingdoms in our soul, heart and mind, battling for the control of our lives. Which will gain the victory? Every decision, every thought determines if we will serve the flesh or be obedient to the Spirit of life. When we make a decision to serve the flesh we resurrect the old man. The son of perdition is exalted into that high place that belongs to God. We need to determine whether to serve the flesh or walk in the Spirit. We cannot do both.

When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, it does not give us a passport to anywhere unless we are determined to be like Him and follow the example He

gave us. And if we will not follow His example, we will never be like Him. Therefore we will never see Him. This we have as His assurance in His Word.

As long as this battle rages in the heavenlies, we are double-minded in all that we do. James wrote:

"A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord." James 1:7-8

Our double-mindedness in God must cease if we are to receive our hope eternal life. We cannot expect to receive it if we are double-minded! We need to gain the victory in the battle of the two nations that are warring for our minds. You can begin to win this battle today by changing your mind from a fleshly existence and let Christ have control of your thinking. In a few words,

"Put on the mind of Christ and cease to be double-minded before God."

We need to recognize we are in a battle before we are willing to fight. Begin to seek the Holy Spirit in your lives today and let His victory be yours!