

"When the Prince of Peace (Jesus Christ) comes, there is no more struggle".

This morning my meditation led me to a battlefield and I found myself struggling with a giant of a thought, not to mention, it was I, who made this thought so gigantic, it was my struggle that seemed to make me perceive that this thought was invincible, much like Goliath to the Israelites as they faced him across the valley. As they placed too much emphasis, focusing way too much upon him instead of YAHWEH and the MIGHT OF THE LORD, which produced fear in them.

But to David, the young lad, experienced in the warfare of faith, witness to the power of deliverance of God, who had delivered David from the hands of powerful predators like the mountain lion and the bear, to him, there was no adversary big enough for the God of Israel, to him there was no fear except the fear of the Lord and so he did not see or perceive facing a (giant).

What was this thought?

I was searching to see if the Rig Veda (Hinduism) had a testimony of our Lord as proclaimed by some and in that search I came across two opposing views, views that birthed a struggle within me and I found myself experiencing doublemindedness. It was a defining moment for me for on one hand I wanted to be joyful because of the seeming testimony found in another philosophy and on the other I was afraid I would get caught in a web of lies and deceit. What was I to do, what should I believe, alas!

So I turned to Him, who is my Saviour and closed my eyes and said, "Lord what now?"

And true to His testimony, His presence came before me and He spoke to me and said, "If you have seen me, you have seen the Father". The import of what He had said began to resonate within my being as truth. And I began to repeat those same words, "if you have seen me, you have seen the Father".

Wow, what a magnifying and exalting thought, not magnifying self but the Messiah in me, then I began to understand what Paul said by the Spirit, "we preach Christ crucified" and again "I am crucified with Christ, nonetheless I live, yet not I but Christ **lives** in me".

You see beloved, our *new birth* is **death to the old man** and **life to the new man**, the first man (living soul) dies and the second man (life giving Spirit) lives. This new birth is also called the baptism of the Spirit. Now baptism therefore has a twofold purpose and is symbolised in the water baptism. Allow me to explain, Paul puts it this way, "Therefore we are buried with him by **baptism** into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. And again Buried with him in **baptism**, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead".

And so we see that the twofold purpose is our **burial** with Him and thence our being **raised** up with Him into newness of life. Now if we are buried and raised up with Him, what does it mean but that He is raised up in us and desires to live His life, therefore if I am crucified with Christ, it is not I that live but Christ lives in me and if He lives in me, then I can confidently say, "if you have seen me, then you have seen the Father".

Now I know many will lift their eyebrows and frown at this saying, but let me continue. Even now many Christians are still buried with Christ and so Christ in them is still not raised and because He is still not raised, He does not LIVE in them and so what they preach is not Christ crucified but about Christ being crucified. What I am trying to say is that the word they speak is not a present word but one of the past and the past is death, hence it is not a living or a life giving word. Heb 4:12. But when Christ **IS** come, He will tell us all things, amen.

When the import of this Word came alive to me, I realised that the Prince of Peace is come and all struggle is ceased. Why?

Because history is past but THE TRUTH (Christ) is present.