

# Precept study on Revelation Part 1, Lesson 5

Tim Davis

Oct 16, 2011

## 1 Summary of last lesson

## 2 The sword from His mouth, Rev 1:16

- *rhomphaia* (G4501): a large sword; properly a long Thracian javelin, also a kind of long sword to be worn on the right shoulder.

This word is always used in Revelation for the sword from His mouth (Rev 1:16, 2:12, 2:26). Also used in Luke 2:35: a sword will pierce even your own soul. Used for the sword of the ashen horse (6:8).

- *machaira* (G3162): (1) large knife, used for killing animals and cutting up flesh; (2) a small sword, as distinguished from a large sword (2a) curved sword, for a cutting stroke; (2b) a straight sword, for thrusting.

This is the common word used for sword in the New Testament. It is used 3 times in Revelation: (6:4): the sword of the red horse, (13:10): if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed, and (13:14): the beast who had the wound of a sword.

It is used in Eph 6:17 and Hebrews 4:12.

- *ek* (G1537) : out of, from, away from. It denotes well exit or emission out of, as separation from, something with which there has been close connection.
- *ekporeuomai* (G1607) : (*came*, in Rev 1:16) is the same as the word *proceeds* in Matthew 4:4:

But He answered and said , "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT **PROCEEDS** OUT OF 123 THE MOUTH OF GOD.' "

Is this metaphor? It seems to be. It can be read that the LORD has a literal sword, and that *also* His Word is metaphorically described as a sword. This would be consistent with the vision that Isaiah had of Jesus coming with his robe dipped in blood. I believe the sword is both metaphorical and literal, that Jesus' words are metaphorically a sharp 2-edged sword, *and* that He truly has a literal sword with which He will destroy evil.

- Compare Isaiah 49:2, which is clearly a simile:

He has made My mouth like a sharp sword, In the shadow of His hand He has concealed Me; And He has also made Me a select arrow, He has hidden Me in His quiver.

- Deut 32:39-42: arrows drunk with blood: *drunk* is a clearly metaphor, but the arrows can be read as literal. Is My flashing sword also? Seems here that the sword is literal too. However, And My hand takes hold on justice, is a metaphor since justice is a concept, not a physical object to hold in the hand. Likewise, a sword does not literally devour flesh. It kills. The use of the word devour is a metaphor.

See now that I, I am He, And there is no god besides Me; It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and it is I who heal, And there is no one who can deliver from My hand. Indeed, I lift up My hand to heaven, And say, as I live forever, If I sharpen My flashing sword, And My hand takes hold on justice, I will render vengeance on My adversaries, And I will repay those who hate Me. I will make My arrows drunk with blood, And My sword will devour flesh, With the blood of the slain and the captives, From the long-haired leaders of the enemy.

- Job 5:13-16: the sword of their mouth is a metaphor, since people do not have swords in their mouths. Their words cut like swords.

He captures the wise by their own shrewdness, And the advice of the cunning is quickly thwarted. By day they meet with darkness, And grope at noon as in the night. But He saves from the sword of their mouth, And the poor from the hand of the mighty. So the helpless has hope, And unrighteousness must shut its mouth.

- Psalm 7:12-13: arrows fiery shafts sounds like a metaphor.

If a man does not repent, He will sharpen His sword; He has bent His bow and made it ready. He has also prepared for Himself deadly weapons; He makes His arrows fiery shafts.

- Psalm 57:4,7 : a metaphor, since their tongues are not literally sharp swords.

My soul is among lions; I must lie among those who breathe forth fire, Even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows And their tongue a sharp sword. ... Behold, they belch forth with their mouth; Swords are in their lips, For, they say, " Who hears?"

- Psalm 64:4: simile

Who have sharpened their tongue like a sword. They aimed bitter speech as their arrow,

- Psalm 149:6: metaphor

Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand,

- Prov 12:18: simile

There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But the tongue of the wise brings healing.

- Proverbs 30:14: simile

There is a kind of man whose teeth are like swords And his jaw teeth like knives, To devour the afflicted from the earth And the needy from among men.

- Isaiah 34:6: the sword of the LORD can be read as literal, but filled with blood, sated with fat is metaphor.

The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, It is sated with fat, with the blood of lambs and goats, With the fat of the kidneys of rams. For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah And a great slaughter in the land of Edom.

- Ezekiel 21:1-10: mixture of literal and metaphor. Can be read as a literal sword of the LORD. The phrase hearts will melt is clearly a metaphor.

And the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Son of man, set your face toward Jerusalem, and speak against the sanctuaries and prophesy against the land of Israel; and say to the land of Israel, 'Thus says the LORD, "Behold, I am against you; and I will draw My sword out of its sheath and cut off from you the righteous and the wicked. Because I will cut off from you the righteous and the wicked, therefore My sword will go forth from its sheath against all flesh from south to north. Thus all flesh will know that I, the LORD, have drawn My sword out of its sheath. It will not return to its sheath again." ' As for you, son of man, groan with breaking heart and bitter grief, groan in their sight. And when they say to you, 'Why do you groan?' you shall say, 'Because of the news that is coming; and every heart will melt, all hands will be feeble, every spirit will faint and all knees will be weak as water. Behold, it comes and it will happen,' declares the Lord GOD." Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Son of man, prophesy and say, 'Thus says the LORD.' Say, 'A sword, a sword sharpened And also polished! 'Sharpened to make a slaughter, Polished to flash like lightning!'

- Ezekiel 30:24-25 : metaphor, since the LORD did not literally put His sword in the hand of the king of Babylon. Nor did the LORD literally break Pharaoh's arm. Instead, the LORD put His strength and capacity for war into Babylon, and broke the power of Pharaoh.

For I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon and put My sword in his hand; and I will break the arms of Pharaoh, so that he will groan before him with the groanings of a wounded man. Thus I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, but the arms of Pharaoh will fall. Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I put My sword into the hand of the king of Babylon and he stretches it out against the land of Egypt.

- Ezekiel 32:10

I will make many peoples appalled at you, and their kings will be horribly afraid of you when I brandish My sword before them; and they will tremble every moment, every man for his own life, on the day of your fall.

- Zechariah 9:13: My bow used as a metaphor

For I will bend Judah as My bow, I will fill the bow with Ephraim. And I will stir up your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece; And I will make you like a warriors sword.

- Eph 6:17: the sword of the Spirit *is* the word of God.

And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

- Hebrews 4:12 : metaphor or simile (“sharper than”)

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.