

70 May 21, 2022 – Bows and Arrows

Four times this past week in a seven-day period a friend of mine was exposed to the symbology, but more important the Word of God, as to **bows** and **arrows** with the meaning identified by Scripture. I had two of these experiences but was able to share by witness to the other two. Two of the shared experiences were from two different pastors in two different churches seventy miles apart on two different days. My friend had confirmation by then receiving a book entitled “**Bows and Arrows**” from the second church teaching session. But the interesting experience was that the first sign of the **bows** and **arrows** was the vision by the friend of the left hand holding a **bow**, with the right-hand chocked **arrow** pointed up toward Heaven, then the right hand drawing back the **bow** string and “firing” the **arrow**. The symbology is life moving forward/upwards with strength and perseverance, better, stronger, and blessed more than before because of moving forward with the Lord and trusting Him. The vision was fulfilled in that seven days, seven being the number of completion in the Bible, with a permanent tattoo applied by a local tattoo artist with **arrow** pointed across the left hand from thumb area in direction of the left forefinger inscribed in black including the **arrowhead**, **arrow shaft**, and feathers. But the colorful part of this one-of-a-kind tattoo was the purple string of feathers that was attached to the **arrow shaft** and wrapped around the left wrist. I was present for the tattoo and witnessed the procedure and seen the artistry of the tattoo specialist with the steps taken to confirm the result before the first ink was in place. Why is this significant? When exposed to repeated signs it is always necessary to look at more information as God is often wanting to point (**arrow**) a person to new messages of faith and belief.

The **arrow** is significant in God’s references and also particularly in Native American culture with my friend being of mixed blood as part of the Sequoia Indian Nation displaced during the Cherokee Nation “Trail of Tears” to the New Hampshire area. A single **arrow** represents strength, direction, and conquer. The feather represents trust, strength, wisdom, freedom, and honor. Different cultures may have different meanings of the **arrow**, but a good reference is <https://www.nativeamericanjewelry.com/symbol-meanings/>. Obviously, the **arrow** is very important in Native American culture because hunting and gathering were so important in this culture and **arrows** had strong symbolic and philosophical meanings. For Native American peoples, **arrows** meant life. They were tools for hunting food, to feed their families, and weapons to protect themselves. Thus, **arrows** are symbols of both war and peace in Native American culture. Depiction and placement of the arrow symbolism in Native American culture can follow a general meaning as follows:

- Single horizontal **arrow** pointing right: protection and defense
- Single horizontal **arrow** pointing left: warding off evil
- Two horizontal **arrows** in different directions (left and right): war
- Crossed **arrows**: friendship
- Single vertical **arrow** pointing down: peace
- Broken **arrow**: peace

There are frequent references in Scripture to both **bows** and **arrows** or often with separately **bows** and separately **arrows**. The context normally is associated with warfare with warriors of different persuasions in battle for territory as described many times in the Book of Kings in the Old Testament or rulers of the New Testament of the Bible. The weapon of choice as with the Christian Crusaders against the Muslims controlling Jerusalem was **bows** and **arrows**. The references go beyond opposing warriors of the flesh to mankind in battle against evil spirits such as opposing the Spirit of Fear that envelopes many people, even Christians. Satan and his demons attacks all of us daily but **Real** Christians born-again and anointed with

the Holy Spirit use the weapons of spiritual warfare of the **bow** and **arrow** as well as the Sword of the Spirit to fight the attacks. A graphic and vivid reference in the Book of lamentations of Jeremiah is where the prophet Jeremiah shares Israels' afflictions. The scene is after the destruction of Jerusalem and the first temple in 586 BC by the Babylonians when the Israelites were carried into captivity. God allowed this to happen, because as before many times the Israelite people had nationally sinned in turning away from God and worshipping false gods – sound familiar for today in our United States as well as the rest of the world. In Chapter 3 verse 12 Jeremiah feeling the remorse of the people says in reference to God as "*He bent His bow and set me as a target for the arrow*" or in Chapter 2 verse 4 Jeremiah says, "*He bent His bow like an enemy, He has set His right hand like an adversary and slain all that were pleasant to the eye; in the tent of the daughter of Zion He has poured out His wrath of fire*". This pictures our Lord as angry, and we will see it again when He returns for His faithful in the clouds at the Rapture before He pours out His wrath on the unrighteous and unfaithful during the Tribulation. From all appearances we are already in the third seal of the Book of Revelation. Pay attention and study this book as The Book says anyone who reads this Book will be blessed.

A significant reference to **bows** and **arrows** is found in 2 Kings 13 of the Old testament and referenced by the two pastors noted in the foregoing. Elisha the prophet who followed as anointed by the prophet Elijah beginning in verse 14 is sick with an illness of which he will die. Joash the king of Israel at the time came to Elisha and wept over him. Joash had followed his father Jehoahaz who died and left a weakened Israel from so many battles. King Hazael of Aram oppressed Judah and Israel but God was gracious and compassionate to them because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. King Joash of Israel overlapped reigning with King Joash of Judah who when he died King Amaziah became King of Judah and battled against the Edomites and then challenged King Joash of Israel to battle. Joash refused, essentially telling Amaziah he was needlessly stirring up trouble, but Amaziah did not heed the warning, and Joash of Israel defeated Judah in battle. The defeat was because Judah sought the gods of Edom. Elisha said to Joash to "Take a **bow** and **arrows**, put your hand on the **bow**, open the window to the East" and then Elisha said to "shoot". So he shot and said, "the Lord's **arrow** of victory, even the **arrow** of victory over Aram; for you shall defeat the Arameans at Aphek until you have destroyed them". Then Elisha said, "Take the **arrows** and strike the ground with them". King Joash did so three times and stopped. Elisha became angry and told Joash "You should have struck five or six times, then you would have struck Aram until you would have destroyed it. But now you shall strike Aram only three times". The lesson in this Scripture is that God is for you but there is a requirement for us to shoot **arrows** and strike **arrows** on the ground of prayer against the enemies camp not limited to three but four, five, six, and more to unloose Satan's hold on us. Prayer and action is significant, and you cannot let your guard down as the enemy, Satan and his demons, is all times trying to set you off balance – given the chance he will devour you, **So Fight!**

Genesis Chapter 9:1-17 is another powerful word of God establishing a covenant with Noah after the flood that destroyed the earth leaving only eight righteous survivors. The Lord said in verse 12 "*this is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all successive generations; I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth. And it shall come about, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud, and I will remember my covenant -- --*". This sign is the setting of the **bow** in the clouds, imagined as a weapon, the position of the **bow** in the clouds is doubly significant, since an **arrow** shot from that **bow** would be directed away from the earth toward Heaven and if used would signify His breaking His covenant which He cannot do. Of course this **bow** is the rainbow a visible pledge of the covenant. A symbology to this covenant of good is the statement in Hosea Chapter 1:5 where the Lord says He will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel "*And it will come about on that day, that I will break the*

bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel". Keep in mind also in the Book of Revelation Chapter 6 verse 2 in the breaking of the first seal by a False Christ where it says "Come" at the end of verse 1 followed in verse 2 "And I looked and behold a white horse, and he who sat on it had a **bow**; and a crown was given to him; and he went out conquering, and to conquer" (all small case h's). God is always in control whether we are in favor or are out of favor, but He will always pour out His love as He wants all to come to Him and have eternal life – the choice is the will He gives us is ours.

