

from the second and third chapters, where the apostle is repeatedly directed to write many things to the angels of the churches, which, doubtless, applied exceedingly well to the ~~leading men~~ of those churches, but which we well know could not apply to the angels of God in heaven.

The ~~leading men~~ of the churches might very appropriately be likened to stars in the right hand of Jesus, to signify that they were destined to shed a feeble light on the inhabitants of the earth, during a long period of spiritual darkness.¹

The "sharp two-edged sword" is "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;"² and by the "countenance" of Jesus appearing "as the sun when he shineth in his strength," is signified his ability to dispel spiritual darkness as effectually as the sun dispels natural darkness.³

Thus we have the perfections of Jesus; his righteousness, truth, purity, discernment, and power, represented by the most appropriate and significant symbols: also the means by which he was to enlighten and perfect the souls of men; first, by the "stars in his right hand," i.e., the ~~leading men~~ of his churches; secondly, by "the sword" which proceedeth "out of his mouth," i.e., by "the word of God" being presented to the world in a

¹ Ye are the *light* of the world, &c.—Matt. v. 14-16.

And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament: and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.—Dan. xii. 3.

² And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.—Eph. vi. 17.

³ And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it; for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.—Rev. xxi. 23.

The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory. Thy sun shall no more go down: neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.—Isa. lx. 19, 20.