



## WAR: Its Cause, Continuation and Termination

I, personally, was born in the midst of World War I.

I was in the pulpit of my first church in Payne, Ohio, my first year as a minister on 7 December, 1941. [Ed. note: the date of the bombing of Pearl Harbour.] I doubt if there has ever been a day since my birth that nations and people somewhere in the world have not been at war. War always impoverishes every nation involved, for war demands and requires the best young men and women of a nation to be sacrificed on the altar of the lust, selfishness and greed of others.

### **Revelation 12:7-9**

**7** And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

**8** And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

**9** 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.

The bottom line of the cause of war is the adversary. Death and the power of death are of the adversary — the Devil, Satan — according to Hebrews 2:14. War stems from a man's free will to choose to follow the true God or the adversary, God's arch-enemy. Adam and Eve chose the latter, and mankind has been in war since.

## **Luke 4:5 and 6**

**5** And the devil, taking him [Jesus] up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

**6** And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

The record in Revelation and here in the Book of Luke corroborate that record in Genesis of the fall of Adam and Eve where they made, by freedom of will, their choice to serve the adversary rather than the true God. It is interesting to note that according to Genesis 1:1 in the beginning God was the One Who created the heavens and the earth. He gave Adam dominion, authority and power over everything, but Adam took that dominion, authority and power and transferred it, gave it, to God's arch-enemy, the adversary.

That is why the fall of man is technically high treason. And, that is why I have said to you that ever since that time, that day, mankind has been at war.

According to God's Word, the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.

## **Psalms 24:1**

**1** The earth *is* the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

This becomes significant and interesting when you put WAR: Its Cause, Continuation and Termination together. God formed, made and created everything for man, and the earth belonged to man, and man was to be the controller of it. He was to have everything under his dominion, but man, by the freedom of his will, gave it to God's arch-enemy, and so you have to look in the Word and see some of these things as they develop.

There is a record that is quite illuminating along this line in Genesis 17. It looked then — and it still looks now, to the senses man — that the only thing that will ever happen is that men will continue to treat each other worse than any animals treat each other. But, there is a ray of light in the Old Testament for believers; that record is found in Genesis 17, and this is to

Abraham.

### **Genesis 17:8 and 9**

**8** And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

**9** And God said unto Abraham. Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.

Originally, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth is the Lord's, and anything that belongs to the Lord, He can give away. Adam and Eve had given whatever they could to the adversary, but God reserved the land of Canaan for Abraham and the believers. The earth is the Lord's, and so He gave that part of the land of the earth to Abraham and to his seed.

The reason I am bringing this up is because the unbelievers through all the centuries have called our God, "a bloody God". They have called Him, "a war God" — the people of God, "war people, cruel people, bloody people".

Following upon Abraham, the children of Israel, because of certain situations, went into captivity for 430 years. Finally the record in Joshua 1 became a reality.

### **Joshua 1:1 and 2**

**1** Now after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord it came to pass, that the Lord spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,

**2** Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, *even* to the children of Israel.

God had already given this all to Abraham, even before Abraham had left Ur of the Chaldees. The earth is the Lord's; God could give it to whomever He wanted to. Now after 430 years of enslavement, this record in Joshua becomes a reality.

### **Joshua 1:3**

**3** Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you [past tense], as I said unto Moses.

Joshua had not even entered the land, but God said, "I have already given it unto you as I said unto Moses." But, He had said it

even before, unto Abraham.

### **Joshua 1:4-8**

**4** From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.

**5** There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, *so* I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

**6** Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers [long before] to give them.

**7** Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it *to* the right hand or *to* the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

**8** This book of the law [the Word of God] shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then [then, then] thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

The reason the children of Israel had to go back in and capture the land is because the enemy had taken over the land that did not belong to them. God had given that land to Abraham and then to Isaac, Israel — all the way down the line. But, what had happened, while the children of Israel were in Egypt, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Ammonites, all of those others, came in and took that which did not belong to them, and so God had to send Joshua in to get it back.

It is remarkable that on all the occasions in the Word of God where the children of Israel obeyed God and stayed faithful to God and His Word, they went into battle time and time again and never lost a man; not one individual was killed. As long as they believed in one God and obeyed one God and the truth of that one God, they never lost. The only time that Israel was ever defeated was when Israel started having more than one God and did not obey the commandments of God.

## **Leviticus 26:1-9**

**1** Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up *any* image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I *am* the Lord your God.

**2** Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I *am* the Lord.

**3** If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them;

**4** Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.

**5** And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.

**6** And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make *you* afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land.

**7** And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword.

**8** And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.

**9** For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish my covenant with you.

That is a remarkable record of the Old Testament and how wonderfully God took care of His people who loved Him, and who remained faithfully on His Word, and who carried out the Word. God took care of them; He took care of everything in their lives: their plantings, their sowings, their reapings, their families. He simply took care of everything, because they had only one God, and they served that one God, and they carried out the commandments of God to the best of their honest, loving ability.

Let us move on to war and its continuation in our day and in our time.

## **James 4:1-4**

From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come* they not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members?

Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts.

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

## **II Chronicles 16:9**

**9** For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart *is* perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

## **Judges 5:8**

**8** They chose new gods; then *was* war in the gates:...

They chose new gods — they chose more gods, new gods, more than the one true God — then, and not until then, was there war in their gates. "War in the gates" means right at home, right there where they lived.

There is protection, there is safety, for every born-again believer in the administration in which you and I live. If God could protect the children of Israel — so that not one feeble knee was among them, so that five men could chase 100, or 100 could chase 10,000 — is our God, Who is the same God today, less than He was then? Or, has He given to believers, perhaps, even more today than they had then?

## **I Corinthians 2:8**

**8** Which none of the princes of this world knew....

The adversary — the Devil, Satan — and all those devil spirits who were cast out that we read about in Revelation, none of them knew about the greatness of the Mystery which is God in Christ in you, the hope of glory and that the Gentiles should be fellow-heirs and of the same Body. He would not have crucified the lord of glory had he known it, but he did not know it, thank God.

And through all the centuries since the day of Pentecost it has been Christ in you, the hope of glory, which has given every



born-again individual the same potential power to utilize that God made available in Christ. That certainly is as much or more than the children of Israel had.

Gideon had to put a fleece out to see if it would get wet. You do not have to put a fleece out; if you do, you would most likely get tricked. "Fleece" days are over with. You have got something far better than a fleece to put out; you have got Christ in you, the hope of glory. That is better than any fleece. And you can speak in tongues, and speaking in tongues is the proof that you have got Christ on the inside.

You could not have him on the inside if God had not raised him from the dead, if he had not ascended and been seated at the right hand of God, if the new birth had not come on the day of Pentecost. You have got the proof. You do not need a fleece; you have got something a lot better than a fleece; you have got Christ in you, the hope of glory.

### **Psalms 91:1-16**

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the Lord, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, *and* from the noisome pestilence.

He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth [His truth] *shall be thy* shield and buckler.

Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; *nor* for the arrow *that* flieth by day;

*Nor* for the pestilence *that* walketh in darkness; *nor* for the destruction *that* wasteth [destroys] at noonday.

A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; *but* it shall not come nigh thee.

Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

Because thou hast made the Lord, *which is* my refuge, *even* the most High, thy habitation;

There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

They shall bear thee up in *their* hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.

Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: *I will be* with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

That is the 91st psalm — Old Testament. Certainly the great mystery — God in Christ in you, the hope of glory, that the Gentiles should be fellow-heirs and of the same Body — has to be this and more, and it is. But we have never been taught; nobody has dared to show it to us, and nobody has believed it.

We have been taught that when bullets come they will kill Christian and non-Christian alike. I do not believe it; not if God's Word is right. There is a verse of Scripture that says, "Wisdom is better than weapons of war..." (Ecclesiastes 9:18). What wisdom? The wisdom of God. Wisdom is knowledge applied. So you have to know God and His Word, and you apply that, and that is wisdom, and that is better than all war can be upon you or to you.

### **Matthew 24:3**

**3** And as he [Jesus] sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what *shall be* the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world [end of the age]?

The word "end" here is *sunteleia*. There are two words that are used with a mathematical exactness and scientific precision in the Word regarding the end of the age. One is the word *sunteleia*, the other one is the word *telos*. *Sunteleia* is not the end, but it is getting toward the end. The end of the end is *telos*; everything before that is *sunteleia*.



### **Matthew 24:4**

**4** And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

We have certainly been deceived by the adversary under the name of "Christian" and everything else.

### **Matthew 24:5-6**

**5** For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

**6** And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end [the *telos*] is not yet.

All that will come to pass, but the *telos* is not yet.

### **Matthew 24:7-9**

**7** For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

**8** All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.

**9** Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

Here Jesus was addressing people of Israel. He was not speaking to the born-again believers, the Church of the Body to which you and I belong; he was speaking to Israel: "Ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars." Nations, kingdoms rising up, pestilence, etc.; that is only the beginning of the tribulation.

There is a verse in Acts 2 which caused me a considerable amount of concern until my friend from Wapakoneta, Ohio, stepped out on it and walked around. In Acts 2 we have a record using an illustration from the Book of Joel, and Joel is Old Testament, but He is using an illustration and teaching some tremendous truths.

### **Acts 2:20**

**20** The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come.

I had never thought about war on the moon until after somebody put his foot up there, and that is why that record: "the moon into blood". There is going to be a man killed on the moon, and the

moment a man is killed, you are going to have blood on the moon. That is going to happen — war on the moon. Any place that man has ever gone to establish anything since Adam and Eve, we have always had war. Today, I believe I can understand Acts 2:20.

But, it says that this will come to pass before the great and notable Day of the Lord comes. One of the reasons you, as a believer, do not have to get all disturbed about this is because, when these things start coming to pass, you will not be here.

### **II Thessalonians 1:7**

**7** And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed [at the time the Lord Jesus shall be revealed] from heaven with his mighty angels.

That is after the gathering together. When this begins to happen upon the earth, you and I will already be at rest, because, before this verse can come to pass, we have in I Thessalonians the record of how Jesus Christ is coming, "for...the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall" join him in the air. That is the first part of it. Then after that, "the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels."

### **II Thessalonians 1:8**

**8** In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And then comes the period of what is called in the Word of God, "Armageddon", which is the final battle, and that record is in Revelation 16.

### **Revelation 16:14 and 16**

**14** For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, *which* go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

**16** And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

And finally, war and its termination.

## **I Corinthians 15:20-26**

**20** But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept.

**21** For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead.

**22** For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

**23** But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

**24** Then *cometh* the end [*telos*], when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and [all] power.

**25** For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

**26** The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed is death.

And with the destruction of death, you go to Revelation 21.

## **Revelation 21:4**

**4** And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

And I would like to close our study with these tremendous words from God's Word:

## **Revelation 22:20 and 21**

**20** He which testifieth these things saith, Surety I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

**21** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all....

That is simply an introductory presentation of WAR: Its Cause, Continuation and Termination, but there is a voluminous amount of material in God's Word, far beyond what I have given you in this study. All I have tried to set for you is to show you a little bit of the truth of God's Word, and to show you from the Old Testament how believers were kept safely, and to show you from the Epistles how you can be kept safely.

Now, if God will do this in the midst of war, He certainly would do the same in an automobile or in any other capacity in life. We again, as God's people, have to just come back.

The "Christian" Church has three gods: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost. Like the Old Testament record where they chose new gods, whenever you have more than one god, you are going to have war in the gates. One of the greatest tricks of the adversary has been, through these centuries, to get people to be idolatrous, to worship more than the one true God. That way the adversary can capture and destroy.

But, I believe by God's mercy and grace that we are living in a day and a time and an hour again when some of us can rise up to the believing privileges of God's Word, where we stand again with just one God and believe in that one God to do what His Word says He will do for every believer.

## References and Notes

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